MARVEL
THE OFFICIAL MARVEL NEWSMAGAZINE!
MARVEL AGE
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TM
70
JAN
ONLY 50¢
SHE-HULK... YOU'VE COME TO JOIN THE WEST COAST AVENGERS?
NAH... I JUST CAME TO USE THE BEACH!
INTERVIEW WITH JOHN BYRNE!
MORE INFERNO NEWS!
PLUS! THE COMING OF SOLAR MAN!

Stan Lee presents

MARVEL AGE®

SALICRUP'S SECTION

A couple of issues ago in this space we gave you an exclusive report on when Marvel Productions' animated X-MEN TV show would make its on-air premier. Well, we're not quite sure if those dates are still accurate, so we advise you to keep an eye on your local TV listings. The X-MEN will either air as part of the nationally syndicated MARVEL ACTION UNIVERSE show, a ninety minute weekly show featuring SPIDER-MAN AND HIS AMAZING FRIENDS, DINO-RIDERS, and ROBOCOP) or as a special show of its own. Now, if you want to be absolutely, positively certain that you don't miss this show, you may consider ordering the X-MEN video tape! Yes, because you demanded it (and we've got the hundreds of cards and letters to prove it), the complete animated X-MEN pilot episode will be available from New World Video on a special limited edition video tape! This tape will be sold at all comics specialty shops, as well as selected video stores for only $14.95. It's shipping the first week in November, so it'll be available in plenty of time for Christmas.

But this is just the tip of the iceberg! There's a lot more mutant madness yet to be announced! But this we can let you know—that if the ratings for the X-MEN pilot are strong enough, it may just be possible that an X-MEN animated series could become a reality. In the meantime, let us know what you think of the show as soon as you see it. We'll run the most interesting letters in the Mutant Report.

So there you have it, mutant-maniacs. At long last, the **X-Men** in their very own show. Remember you got the first in-depth coverage, taking you behind-the-scenes for the making of the pilot in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #63. We took the show on the road this summer and played the pilot at all the major comic book conventions, which was announced in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #66. We told you that plans were afoot for the pilot to debut on TV as part of MARVEL ACTION UNIVERSE in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #68. And now the exciting news concerning the X-MEN video. What does that tell us? That if you want the latest, up-to-the-minute news regarding the X-MEN, MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE is *the* place to find it!

—Jim Salicrup

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Tom DeFalco
Editor in Chief

Jim Salicrup
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Dwight Jon Zimmerman
Managing Editor

Sholly Fisch
Coming Attractions

Dawn Geiger
Designer

Fred Hembeck
Sage of Marvel Age

Craig Anderson, **Steve Buccellato**, **Bob Budiansky**, **Bobbie Chase**, **Daniel Chichester**, **Margaret Clark**, **Don Daley**, **James DiGiovanna**, **Daryl Edelman**, **Sue Flaxman**, **Archie Goodwin**, **Mark Gruenwald**, **Larry Hama**, **Bob Harras**, **Glenn Herdling**
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Don Perlin
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Gaven Curtis
Vince Mielcarek
The Raiders

Virginia Romita
Traffic/Production Manager

Len Kaminski
Assistant Traffic/Production Manager

Adam Blaustein
Manufacturing Coordinator

Lynda Strunk
Typesetter

Jack Abel
Proofreader

Paul Becton, **Gregory Wright**
Colorists

John Byrne
Cover Art

Joe Albelo, **Paul Becton**, **Harry Candelario**, **Rob Carosella**, **Hector Collazo**, **Harry Eisenstein**, **Vince Evans**, **Dawn Geiger**
Michael Heisler, **Brad K. Joyce**, **Ken Lopez**, **Ed Magalong**, **Eddie Marcano**, **Rob Naylor**, **Joyce Phua**, **Michael Yee**
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Steve Sheffler
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Vice-President Direct Sales
Dale Kanzler
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Promotion Manager

Fabian Nicieza
Advertising Manager

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He-Hunk

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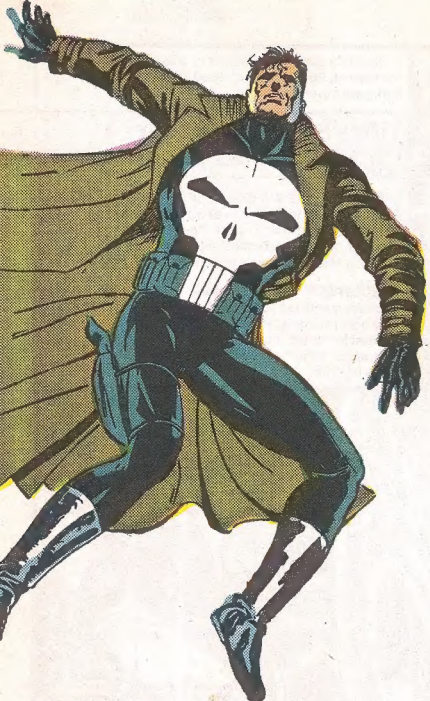
Here is a complete checklist of what's happening in all the **Marvel**, **Epic**, **Star** and **New Universe** titles bearing a **February** cover date.

Titles Shipping October 4
On Sale October 25

☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS #41** – The **West Coast Avengers** are in shock over what's happened to the **Avengers**. And that makes them easy targets for a midnight raid by **Nightshift**! Guest starring the **Shroud**. Written by **Mark Gruenwald** and penciled by **Al Milgrom**. 75¢.

☐ **WOLFPACK Limited Series #7** – The teenage **Raphael** meets his father for the first time! And the meeting's going to have fateful consequences for the future of **Wolfpack**! "Blast from the Past" is written by **John Figueros**, penciled by **Ron Wilson**, and inked by **Chris Ivy**. 75¢.



☐ **PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL #3** – The **Punisher's** in deep trouble. He's been drugged and beaten, and an old ally is out of prison––determined to kill him! Even with **Daredevil's** help, the **Punisher's** going to wind up in the worst shape he's ever been in! "A Dish Best Served Cold" is written and laid out by **Carl Potts**, with finished artwork by **Jim Lee**. 32 pages. Mando paper. $1.50.

☐ **SEMPER FI #3** – Come back into the past for two more titillating tales of the U.S. Marine Corps!

First up: It's 1918 and World War I is coming to a close. But that's not much consolation for the Marines fighting for their lives in war-torn France! "Trench Warfare" is written by **Michael P. Palladino**, penciled by **Andy Kubert**, and inked by **John Severin**.

Next, it's back to the early days of the U.S.M.C. as we learn what life was like in 1777 for "A Continental Marine!" Written by **Michael P. Palladino** and drawn by **Sam Glanzman**. 75¢.

A **Limited Series** is a title which will only run for a specific number of issues.

A **Graphic Novel** is an 8½" × 11" paperback edition.

A **Digest** is a 4¾" × 6⅝" paperback edition.

A **Trade Paperback** is a 7" × 10" paperback edition.

A **Graphic Album** is a high-quality, stiff-cover comic book edition.

A **Direct Sales** title is available only at selected outlets.

Shipping Date refers to when the comics leave the printer.

☐ **MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #12** – Four new stories every two weeks!

COLOSSUS Part III––**Colossus** may have the power to turn his body into living steel, but how can that power help him save an innocent family from the fatal traps set by the C.I.A.? Written by **Ann Nocenti** and penciled by **Rick Leonardi**.

MAN-THING Part XII––The final chapter! The shambling **Man-Thing** vs. an army of mutated muck monsters! Written by **Steve Gerber** and illustrated by **Tom Sutton**.

Plus, complete in this issue:

Hercules is in big trouble this time! He's made his father hopping mad! Now **Zeus** is going to teach his son a lesson he'll never forget––provided he survives! Written by **Chris Henderson** and illustrated by **Don Heck**.

Namorita's out of school! And with so much free time on her hands, what happens? She runs smack-dab into trouble, Atlantis-style! Written by **Scott Lobdell**, penciled by **Frank Springer**, and inked by **Fred Fredericks**. 32 pages. $1.25.

☐ **EXCALIBUR #5** – **Excalibur's** trapped in Murderworld, the murderous funhouse controlled by the maniacal **Arcade!** There is a safe way out of Murderworld, but before **Excalibur** finds it, someone is going to die! Written by **Chris Claremont** and illustrated by **Alan Davis**. 32 pages. Mando paper. $1.50.

☐ **STRAY TOASTERS** Limited Series **#2 – Egon Rustamagic** is slowly getting closer to finding the master mind behind a series of bizarre slayings. But the hunter becomes the hunted when **Egon** finds himself being stalked by the killer robot, **Big Daddy!** Written and illustrated by **Bill Sienkiewicz**. An Epic Graphic Album. For mature readers. Direct Sales only. 48 pages. $3.50.

☐ **DAREDEVIL #263** – Trains come alive! **Kingpin** goes crazy! **Karen Page** vanishes! What's going on? **Inferno**, that's what! And in this frenzied tie-in to the Inferno saga, **Daredevil** faces his greatest challenge––a city gone **mad!** Written by **Ann Nocenti**, penciled by **John Romita Jr.**, and inked by **Al Williamson**. 75¢.

☐ **STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #26** – The alien **Horde** has been defeated! But are the aliens who conquered them friendly or Earth's greatest enemies yet? The Morituri, **Brava** wants to know, and she wants to know fast––before she dies like her friends! "The Last Morituri" is scripted by **James D. Hudnall**, penciled by **Mark Bagley**, and inked by **Val Mayerik**. Direct Sales only. 32 pages Mando paper. $1.50.

☐ **TALES OF G.I. JOE #14** – Re-presenting from G.I. JOE #14: There's action aplenty with **Snake Eyes, Quinn the Eskimo**, and the rest of the **Joe** team! A swamp erupts into mayhem when "Destro Attacks!" Written by **Larry Hama**, penciled by **Mike Veeburg**, and inked by **John D'Agostino**. 32 pages. Mando paper. $1.50.

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☐ **PSI-FORCE #28** – **Kathy Ling** is on her own And her telekinetic powers are pushed to the limit when she faces the Russian paranormal, **Schivowinoeh!** Will **Kathy** be up to the test, or will she break? Written by **Fabian Nicieza**, penciled by **Erik Larsen**, and inked by **Chris Ivy**. 32 pages. Mando offset paper. Direct Sales only $1.50

☐ **G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS #18** – **Snake Eyes** and the **Joes** have finished their mission in Tibet, and they're finally ready to go home. But first, they have to survive a danger-laden trip through Southeast Asia! "Extraction" is written by **Larry Hama**, penciled by **Herb Trimpe**, and inked by **Andy Mushynsky**. $1.00.

☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #47** – Last month, in SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #146, the effects of Inferno caused **Harry Osborn's** chemical factory to come to life and attack **Harry** and **Spider-Man**. Now the **Hobgoblin** wants something from **Harry**, but he may get more than he's bargained for because the Inferno is affecting **Harry's** mental well-being. Written by **Gerry Conway**, penciled by **Alex Saviuk**, and inked by **Keith Williams**. $1.00.

Titles Shipping October 11 On Sale November 1

☐ **SOLO AVENGERS #15** – Two stories! Double the action! Double the fun!

Hawkeye has been reunited with his old partner, the **Black Widow**. And it's a good thing––the avenging archer is going to need all the help he can get when he faces the hordes of **A.I.M.**! Written by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **Al Milgrom**, and inked by **Jose Marzan**.

Plus: An old friend of **Starfox's** is in trouble, and to save her, he's got to visit a planet where everything's illegal––everything but commerce and violence, that is! "The Comedy of Eros" is written by **Peter B. Gillis**, penciled by **Tom Artis**, and inked by **Joe Rubinstein**. 75¢.

☐ **ALF #12** – **ALF** is hard enough for the **Tanners** to handle as it is. But when he loses his memory and thinks they're enemy aliens who've captured him. . .well, the **Tanners** should've stayed in bed! Written by **Michael Gallagher**, penciled by **Dave Manak**, and inked by **Marie Severin**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

☐ **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #312** – In this month's WEB OF SPIDER-MAN the **Green Goblin** returned! To save his family he must fight the **Hobgoblin**. To make matters worse, **Spidey's** caught in the middle! And to complicate things even more, the events of Inferno could push **Harry Osborn** beyond the brink of insanity! Written by **David Michelinie** and drawn by **Todd McFarlane**. $1.00.

☐ **THE 'NAM MAGAZINE #7** – Re-presenting from THE 'NAM #13 and #14: **Ed Marks's** tour of duty is almost up. He's on his way home: . .if he can survive the next week and a half! And when you meet the unit's newest troops, you'll hear tales ranging from World War II to Vietnam, courtesy of a guy nicknamed **Aesop**––and some of his stories may even be true! ". . .and a Wakeup" and "Fatigue Duty" are scripted by **Doug Murray**, penciled by **Michael Golden** and **Wayne Vansant**, and inked by **Bob Camp** and **John Beatty**. A 48-page, black and white Marvel magazine. $2.00.

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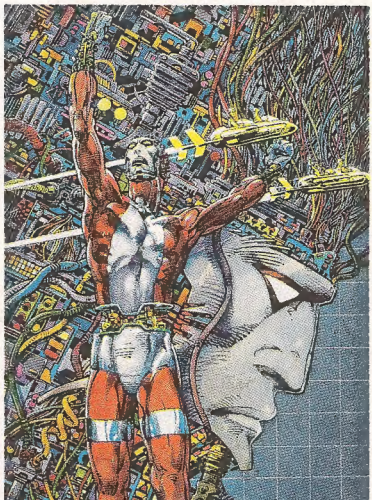
☐ **D.P. 7 #28** – It's reunion time for **D.P. 7**, but instead of champagne and smiles, the event could demand funeral wreaths and tears because ready to attack and destroy them is their greatest enemy! "The Candidate" is written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Paul Ryan**, and inked by **Romeo Tanghal**. 32 pages. Mando Offset paper. Direct Sales only. $1.50.



☐ **MACHINE MAN** Trade Paperback – Re-presenting the entire MACHINE MAN Limited Series in a long-lasting paperback edition! Visit the world of the not-too-distant future. Meet the **Iron Man** of the year 2020! And learn the fate of **Machine Man**, **Jocasta**, and the entire world! Written by **Tom DeFalco**, illustrated by **Herb Trimpe** and **Barry Windsor-Smith**, and new cover by **Barry Windsor-Smith**. 96 pages. $6.95.

☐ **WOLVERINE #4** – It's **Wolverine** alone against the hordes of a savage crime lord! The hordes don't stand a chance. Guest-starring the **New Mutants' Karma**! Written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **John Buscema**, and inked by **Al Williamson**. 32 pages. Baxter paper. $1.50.

☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #350** – This is it! The giant-sized extravaganza you've been waiting for! The truth behind **Steve Rogers'** troubles! **Cap** vs. **Cap**! And when the dust clears, only one man will keep the name of **Captain America**! Written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Kieron Dwyer**, and inked by **Al Milgrom**. Plus a special tale of the life of the **Red Skull**, written and drawn by **John Byrne**! And more pinups and special features than you could shake an adamantium shield at! 64 pages. $1.75.

MARVEL® MASTERWORKS™

☐ **MARVEL MASTERWORKS Vol. 5: SPIDER-MAN** – Re-presenting THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #11 thru #20 in a high-quality hard-cover volume! Witness the debuts of some of the wall-crawler's greatest enemies, including the **Scorpion, Mysterio, Kraven the Hunter**––and the **Green Goblin**! Written by **Stan Lee** and drawn by **Steve Ditko**. 240 pages. $29.95.

☐ **THE NEW MUTANTS** #72 – What could be worse than the **New Mutants** vs. an army of demons in the heart of Inferno? How about the **New Mutants** vs. demons, the **Hellfire Club**. . .and their own headmaster, **Magneto?** Written by **Louise Simonson** and drawn by **Bret Blevins**. $1.00.

☐ **THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN** #156 – **Conan** may be a rogue, but he still has honor. And that honor may cost him his life when he joins a band of thieves who aren't nearly as scrupulous as he is! "Rogue's Honor" is written by **Chuck Dixon**, penciled by **Michael Docherty**, and inked by **Ricardo Villagren**. A 64-page, black and white Marvel magazine. For mature readers. $2.00.

☐ **ST. GEORGE** #4 – A town in the Carolinas has a sinister deal with the Shadow Dweller, **Wikka**: He'll insure that they have a good harvest. . .in return for human sacrifices! Can **Michael Devlin** halt this ghastly bargain in time? Written by **D.G. Chichester** and **Margaret Clark** and illustrated by **Klaus Janson**. An Epic Comic. Mando Offset paper. For mature readers. Direct Sales only. 32 pages. $1.50.

☐ **HEATHCLIFF** #30 – What could be dangerous in a peaceful wax museum? Plenty, when the museum is actually the hideout of a den of thieves! When **Heathcliff** and **Iggy** turn detective, can even they solve "The Mystery of the Wax Museum?" Written by **Michael Gallagher**, penciled by **Howie Post**, and inked by **Roberta Edelman**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

☐ **GROO THE WANDERER** #48 – Talk about your beach blanket bozo, **Groo** took off for the beach, and got himself lost in the desert! But if you think this means **Groo**'s got a short future on a buzzard's dinner plate, you're underestimating the klutziness of **Groo**! Written and illustrated by **Sergio Aragones** and sand-forized by **Mark Evanier**. An Epic Comic. 32 pages. $1.00.

☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT** #67 – The demonic **Dream Queen's** on Earth––deadlier than ever! It's the first chapter in the awesome three-part origin of the **Dream Queen**––and it's also the first round in what **Vindicator** fears is **Alpha Flight's** last stand! "The Ties That Bind" is written by **James D. Hudnall**, penciled by **Hugh Haynes**, and inked by **Gerry Talaoc**. 32 pages. Mando Offset paper. Direct Sales only. $1.50.

☐ **WOLVERINE AND HAVOK: MELTDOWN Limited Series** #2 – It's up to **Wolverine** to solve a sinister mystery––who killed **Havok**?! Written by **Walt** and **Louise Simonson** and illustrated by **Kent Williams** and **Jon J Muth**. An Epic Graphic Album. 48 pages. Direct Sales only. $3.50.

Titles Shipping October 18 On Sale November 8

☐ **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** #71 – Featuring an interview with hot young artist **Art Adams**, the brand new DREAMWEAVER Graphic Novel, SILVER SURFER projects by **Stan Lee**, **Moebius**, **John Buscema**, and **Keith Pollard** and a striking cover by **Moebius**! All this plus Stan's Soapbox, **Hembeck's** page, the Mutant Report, Marvel Trivia Quiz, and all the other features you love! How do we do it all for a mere fifty cents? Mando Offset paper. Direct Sales only. 50¢.

☐ **THE INCREDIBLE HULK** #352 – The **Hulk** is in **Jarella's** subatomic world––a world where the chief figure in the inhabitants' religion is the ever-incredible **Hulk**! You'd think that would make life pretty easy for the grey goliath. But there's one small problem: **The Inquisitor** thinks the **Hulk** is an impostor and wants to kill him! Written by **Peter David** and illustrated by **Jeff Purvis**. 75¢.

☐ **MARVEL TALES** #220 – Re-presenting from SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #81, "Stalkers in the Shadows!" The **Punisher** busts out of prison! **Spidey** battles **Cloak** and **Dagger**! It's the beginning of the events that climax in the acclaimed PUNISHER Limited Series! Written by **Bill Mantlo**, penciled by **Al Milgrom**, inked by **Jim Mooney**. New cover by **Mike Zeck**. 75¢.

☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN** #215 – Conan––a slave?! Maybe for now. But as anyone who's familiar with the savage Cimmerian knows, **Conan's** not going to take that kind of treatment lying down! Written by **Charles Santino** and **Valdis Semeiks**, penciled by **Valdis Semeiks**, and inked by **Alfredo Alcala**. $1.00.

☐ **FLINTSTONE KIDS** #10 – A prehistoric amusement park turns pre-hysterical when **Freddy** and **Barney** pay a visit! What could possibly result but "Panic at Panic Park"? Written by **Angelo DeCesare**, penciled by **Warren Kremer**, and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

☐ **THE PUNISHER** #16 – The **Punisher** is secretly training a small army to attack the **Kingpin**. But all that training may come too late when the **Kingpin's** latest assassin starts picking off the **Punisher's** men one by one! "High Rollers" is written by **Mike Baron**, penciled by **Whilce Portacio**, and inked by **Scott Williams**. $1.00

[ ] **SILVER SURFER** #20 – **Firelord** is burning for revenge! Awright, the pun may be bad, but so are the consequences for the **Silver Surfer** when **Firelord** catches him! Meanwhile, **Nova's** in more than enough trouble herself because she's the target for **Starfox**. And as if that weren't enough, everyone's got to watch out for **Reptyl**! "Playing with Matches" is written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Ron Lim**, and inked by **Joe Rubinstein**. $1.00.

[ ] **THE UNCANNY X-MEN** #241 – The last time the **Marauders** turned up, they slaughtered mutants left and right! Can the **X-Men** defeat them this time? And even if they can, can the **X-Men** survive. . .Inferno? Written by **Chris Claremont** and drawn by **Mark Silvestri**. $1.00.

[ ] **MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS** #13 – Four titanic tales for the price of one! COLOSSUS Part IV--**Colossus's** war with the C.I.A. gets even hotter! Written by **Ann Nocenti** and penciled by **Rick Leonardi**.

BLACK PANTHER Part I – – The **Black Panther's** father was king of the Wakandas. But why has there never been any mention of his mother? **T'Challa** embarks on a quest to discover his past – – a quest that, before it is finished, could destroy everything the **Black Panther** cherishes! Written by **Don McGregor**, penciled by **Gene Colan**, and inked by **Tom Palmer**.

Plus complete in this issue:

When **Mr. Fantastic** tries to make some household repairs, the **Invisible Woman** winds up with even bigger problems! "Reed's on the Roof and We Can't Get Him Down" is written by **Chris Henderson** and drawn by **Mike Harris**.

Shanna the She-Devil races against time to unravel a sinister mystery. The wife of a safari hunter is dead – – it looks like an accident. **Shanna** believes it was murder. But how can she prove it? Written and illustrated by **Bruce Jones**. 32 pages. $1.25.

[ ] **DOCTOR ZERO** #5 – When a Shadow Dweller hitches a ride on an American SDI satellite, it could touch off Armageddon! Can **Doctor Zero** stop the Shadow Dweller before he brings about World War III? "Things of Fire and Smoke" is written by **D.G. Chichester** and **Margaret Clark** and illustrated by guest artist **Bret Blevins**. An Epic Comic. Mando Offset paper. For mature readers. Direct Sales only. 32 pages. $1.50.

[ ] **MARVEL FANFARE** #42 – There's a strange bit of turnabout in store when **Spider-Man** makes a mistake. . .and **Peter Parker** has to fix it! You won't want to miss this special glimpse of **Spider-Man** in his black costume! "Windfall" is written by **Carl Potts** and illustrated by **Terry Shoemaker**. 32 pages. Hudson paper. direct Sales only. $1.95.

[ ] **G.I. JOE** #83 – If you thought **G.I. Joe** had its hands full fighting the Dreadnoks, wait'll you see what happens when they the new **Dreadnok** even the **Dreadnoks** can't stand – – **Road Pig**! Written by **Larry Hama**, penciled by **Marshall Rogers**, and inked by **Randy Emberlin**. $1.00.

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[ ] **JUSTICE** #28 – **Justice** forms an alliance of convenience with the **Medusa Web** to rescue the **Psi Force** kids from the Siberian Project. But what is **Justice's** real reason for joining the rescue mission? Written by **Peter David** and drawn by **Lee Weeks**. 32 pages. Mando Offset paper. Direct Sales only. $1.50.

[ ] **THE SAGA OF THE SUB-MARINER Limited Series** #4 – Featuring one of the all-time greatest battles in comics, straight from the Golden Age of the 1940's! Fire faces water when the **Sub-Mariner** takes on the original **Human Torch**! Scripted by **Roy** and **Dann Thomas** and drawn by **Rich Buckler**. Direct Sales only. 32 pages. $1.50.

[ ] **THE AVENGERS** #300 – The giant-sized spectacular you've been waiting for! Witness the rebirth of the mighty **Avengers** – – and just wait till you see who they are! Written by **Walt Simonson**, penciled by **John Buscema**, and inked by **Tom Palmer**. Also: An unusual look at the formation of the original **Avengers**. . .from the guy who caused the team to form – **Loki**, the god of evil! Written by **Ralf Macchio** and illustrated by **Walt Simonson**. 64 pages. $1.75.

[ ] **THE LIGHT AND DARKNESS WAR** #3 – **Lord Na's** earthbound pawn, industrialist and arms manufacturer, **Niles Odom**, tricks scientist **Nick Tesla** into opening the dimensional barrier between our world and the afterlife Light and Darkness universe. . .sucked into the maelstrom are **Lazarus Jones** and the whole **Light Gang** crew! Written by **Tom Veitch** and illustrated by **Cam Kennedy**. An Epic Comic. 32 pages. Mando Offset paper. Direct Sales only. $1.95.

☐ **THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #147** – After confronting **Spidey** and the **Green Goblin** in this month's AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, **Hobgoblin** seeks out **S'ym**, lord of Limbo's demons and mastermind of the Inferno. But what price will **S'ym** exact for **Hobgoblin's** request of ultimate power? Written by **Gerry Conway** and drawn by **Sal Buscema**. $1.00.

☐ **CLASSIC X-MEN #30** – Re-presenting from THE UNCANNY X-MEN #124: The **X-Men** fight one of their own in the heart of **Arcane's** fiendish Murderworld! "He Only Laughs When I Hurt" is scripted by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **John Byrne**, and inked by **Terry Austin**. Plus: An all-new solo story revealing once and for all just what's going on in **Arcade's** mind anyway! Written by **Ann Nocenti** and illustrated by **John Bolton**. 32 pages. $1.25.

☐ **ALIEN LEGION #8** – What starts off as a peaceful visit to **Torrie Montroc's** father erupts into chaos when an army of assassins attacks! Even with the latest Legionnaire, **Nakhira Doomhar**, by their side, can **Torrie** and **Tamara** survive? "Duty Elsewhere" is written by **Chuck Dixon**, penciled by **Larry Stroman**, and inked by **Mark Farmer**. An Epic Comic. Direct Sales only. 32 pages. $1.50.

Titles Shipping October 25
On Sale November 15

☐ **TRANSFORMERS #49** – The Arctic is the scene for an all-out civil war among the **Decepticons**! And the prize is the ultimate leadership of the evil **Transformers**! "Cold War" is written by **Bob Budiansky**, penciled by **Jose Delbo**, and inked by **Dave Hunt**. $1.00.

☐ **X-FACTOR #37** – In the heart of Inferno, **X-Factor** is locked in a life-and-death battle to save **Cyclops's** infant son! But wait till you see who they have to rescue him from! Written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Walt Simonson**, and inked by **Bob Wiacek**. $1.00.

SPEEDBALL #6 – **Speedball's** faced some pretty odd villains in his short but eventful career, but the Masked Marvel comes up against one of the strangest foes of all when he meets the thief known only as "The Bug-Eyed Voice"! Plotted and penciled by **Steve Ditko**, scripted by **Roger Stern**, and inked by **Chuck Patterson**. 75c.

☐ **CLOAK AND DAGGER #3** – **Cloak's** got to stop an invading alien armada––and he's got to do it alone! In the process, **Cloak's** going to learn more about the nature of his and **Dagger's** powers. . .and so will we! Written by **Terry Austin** and drawn by **Dan Lawliss**. Direct Sales only. Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #323** – The **Torch** can't flame off! **Mantis** confronts **Kang**! Astonishing secrets about **Aron, the Watcher**, revealed! Plus the awesome **Dreaming Celestial**! You want more? You got it! It's also an Inferno tie-in! Written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Keith Pollard**, and inked by **Joe Sinnott**. 75c.

☐ **IRON MAN #239** – Talk about action––it's **Iron Man** against **Blacklash** and **Blizzard**! And as if that wasn't enough trouble for **Shellhead**, there's also the return of the **Ghost**! Co-plotted and scripted by **David Michelinie**, penciled by **Jackson Guice**, co-plotted and inked by **Bob Layton**. 75c.

[ ] **DRAGON'S CLAWS** #5 – The action spans half the globe as part of the team is sent to Canada to capture a vigilante killer! Meanwhile, **Dweller** and **Kurran** have been sent to London in connection with a murder––but is it to stop the murder or commit it? "Craven Idols" is written by **Simon Furman** and illustrated by **Geoff Senior**. 24 pages. Direct Sales only. Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

[ ] **G.I. JOE EUROPEAN MISSIONS** #5 – A top secret bomber has crashed! Can **Hawk** and **Flint** recover it in time? If not, the bomber's going to fall into the clutches of **Cobra**! "Gunships" is scripted by **Steve White** and drawn by **Robin Smith**. 24 pages. Direct Sales only. Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

[ ] **THE 'NAM** #27 – Meet the luckiest soldier the 'Nam's ever seen! He's come through battle after battle without a scratch, and so has his whole unit. But what happens to this lucky guy when his luck finally runs out? "Like a Candle in the Wind" is written by **Doug Murray** and illustrated by **Sam Glanzman**. 32 pages. Direct Sales only. Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

[ ] **THOR** #400 – This is it––the thrill-packed, 64-page climax to the war of the gods! Plus: a history of **Thor's** hammer, "Tales of Asgard," and more special bonus features than you ever imagined could fit in a single, giant-sized spectacular! Written by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **Ron Frenz**, and inked by **Brett Breeding**. $1.75.

[ ] **CONAN SAGA** #21 – Re-presenting from THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #12: **Conan** fights a hideous fiend in the mysterious city of Gaza! And the prize is. . .**Conan's** life! How can the barbarian defeat the "Horror from the Red Tower"? Adapted from the **Robert E. Howard** story by scripter **Roy Thomas**, penciler **John Buscema**, and inker **Sonny Trinidad**. And from THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #23: **King Kull** fights his strangest battle yet––deep within a lightless void! "The Striking of the Gong" is written by **Roy Thomas**, penciled by **Rick Hoberg**, and inked by **Bill Wray**. A 64 page, black and white Marvel magazine. For mature readers. $2.00.

[ ] **AKIRA** #6 – **Kaneda** is forced to go one-on-one against his former friend, **Tetsuo**, whose malignant psychic powers are turning him into an uncontrollable monster! Meanwhile, the **Colonel** steels himself against the fact that the most feared mutant of all, **Akira**, shows ever increasing signs of awakening. Written and illustrated by **Katsuhiro Otomo**. English language adaptation by **Jo Duffy**. 64 pages. An Epic Graphic Album. $3.50.

[ ] **THE PUNISHER** Graphic Novel – Has the **Punisher** compromised his principles? Why else would he ally himself with a team of assassins to slay a gangland leader? The reason behind the bitter alliance is only one of the searing surprises in this, the grittiest **Punisher** saga of the season! "Assasins' Guild" is written by **Jo Duffy** and illustrated by **Jorge Zaffino**. 64 pages. $6.95.

MARVEL® MASTERWORKS™

[ ] **MARVEL MASTERWORKS Vol. 6: THE FANTASTIC FOUR** – Re-presenting THE FANTASTIC FOUR #11 thru #20 in a high quality hard-cover edition. You'll shudder at the villainy of the likes of the **Super-Skrull**, the **Molecule Man**, the **Sub-Mariner**, **Diablo**, and (off course) **Doctor Doom**! You'll chuckle at the off-beat antics of the **Impossible Man**! And you'll marvel at the historic first battle between the **Thing** and the **Hulk**! Scripted by **Stan Lee**, penciled by **Jack Kirby**, and inked by **Dick Ayers** and **Steve Ditko**. 240 pages. $29.95.

SUPER-VILLAIN CHECKLIST

A.I.M.: SOLO AVENGERS #15
Arcade: EXCALIBUR #5, CLASSIC X-MEN #30
Blacklash: IRON MAN #239
Blizzard: IRON MAN #239
Dream Queen: ALPHA FLIGHT #67
The Egyptian Gods: THOR #400
Firelord: SILVER SURFER #20
The Ghost: IRON MAN #239
The Green Goblin: WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #47, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #312
The Hellfire Club: THE NEW MUTANTS #72
Hobgoblin: WEB OF SPIDER-MAN, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #312, SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #147
The Inquisitor: THE INCREDIBLE HULK #352
Kang: FANTASTIC FOUR #323
The Kingpin: DAREDEVIL #263, THE PUNISHER #16
Loki: THE AVENGERS #300
The Marauders: THE X-MEN #241
Nightshift: WEST COAST AVENGERS #41
The Red Skull: CAPTAIN AMERICA #350
Reptyl: SILVER SURFER #20
S'ym: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #147

NEWSWATCH

A LOOK AT LIBRARIES, LOCATIONS, AND THE LOVE LIVES OF THE LITERATI

ITEM: Looking for something to read in your spare time? Well, you may be in for a surprise the next time you stroll into your local public library. Recently, the Queens, NY public library system decided that their collection of fiction, nonfiction, and classic works of literature was lacking something--and that something was (you guessed it) comic books! So now, several of the library's branches are lending out copies of SPIDER-MAN right along with *The Complete Shakespeare* and *The Vegetarian Cookbook*!

We've heard tell of a few other libraries around the country that have similar comic book collections. So why not check out your *own* local library? And if it doesn't have a comics collection. . .well, a few well-chosen words to a librarian never hurt either. . .

ITEM: Y'know, sometimes we think they do it just to confuse us.

Who are we talking about? Why, those tricky assistant editors, of course!

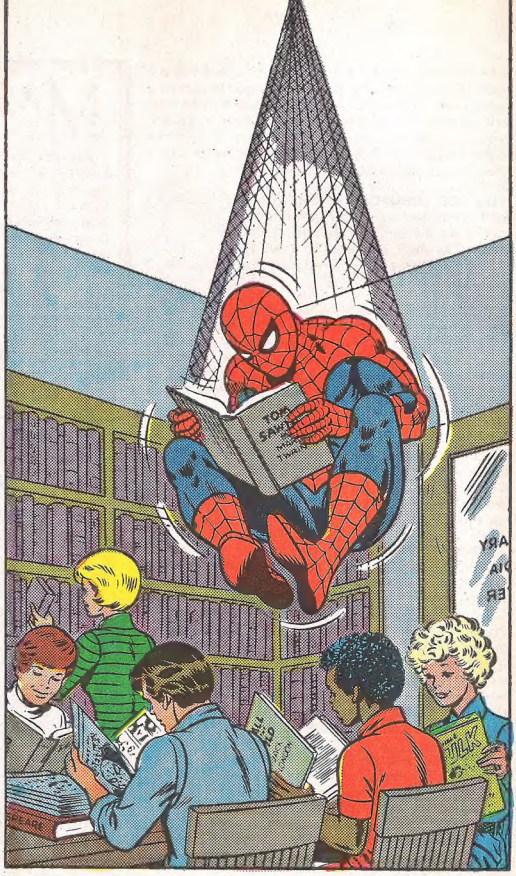
No sooner do we finally get all of their names straight than these guys start switching editors on us! Remember SILVER SURFER editor **Craig Anderson's** assistant **A.A. Perry**? Well, now he's assistant editor on the Star Comics line alongside editor **Sid Jacobson**. But wait a minute! What about Sid's assistant **Sue Flaxman**? Oh, she's Craig's assistant now!

Okay, okay, guys. We give up. Now will you please sit still long enough for us to catch our breath?

ITEM: Don't look now, but those wedding bells are ringing yet again! This time, it's assistant traffic production manager **Len Kaminski** who tied the knot back in June with the lovely and charming **Carrie Barre**. Congrats, folks!

ITEM: And speaking of folks who deserve a hearty round of congratulations, let's send out a batch to WEB OF SPIDER-MAN penciler **Alex Saviuk** and his wife, **Jodi**. This past Fathers' Day, Jodi gave Alex a very special present--a bouncing baby girl named **Erica Marie**! With two children to feed and clothe now, we figure Alex is going to have to start penciling even faster than he already does!

Hmm. . .that *does* explain why he's been staring so longingly at Doc Ock's extra arms lately, though. . .



THE TOP TEN

Mutant, mutant, who's got the mutant? The Top Ten does, that's who! This month, we list the ten best-selling titles in the Direct Sales market for the month of June. It's compiled by our Vice-President Direct Sales, **Carol Kalish**. And this month our misunderstood mutants have captured eight out of ten spots in the Top Ten! Here's how they stack up:

1—**EXCALIBUR** #1
2—**X-MEN ANNUAL** #12
3—**THE X-MEN** #236
4—**THE X-MEN** #235
5—**X-TERMINATORS** #1
6—**X-FACTOR** #33
7—**MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS** #4
8—**THE PUNISHER** #12
9—**MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS** #5
10—**AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #306

MARVEL® TRIVIA QUIZ

Undiscussed Aspect of Reading Comics #142: the odd phenomenon of enjoying allusions before you know what they're alluding to. My first issue of AVENGERS, for example, was entitled, "Death Comes for the Arch-Heroes!" It was the team's first encounter with the **Grim Reaper**, and though the fun was wasted a little oddly, I thought it was great, dramatic, ominous. What at the mere age of ten, did I know from **Willa Cather**? Some twelve years later, when I ran across her book, *Death Comes for the Archbishop*, I immediately warmed to the book, knew it must have been a tome of some significance—after all, hadn't it furnished the title for one of **Roy Thomas's Avengers** epics?

Though this month's Avengers-oriented quiz doesn't go so far as to examine such minutiae as where the story titles came from, you may still find a stumper or two among the twenty below! But never fear, the answers are, shall we say, assembled on page 32.

—*Brian Nelson*

1. Many Avengers got their first big breaks in the pages of other books, only going on to Avenging glory in later years. **Dr. Druid**, for example, first attracted notice as the featured, continuing "host" of:
A) UNCANNY TALES
B) VAULT OF EVIL
C) WEIRD WONDER TALES
D) FUNNY-LOOKING BALD GUYS MONTHLY

2. As for **West Coast Avenger, Tigra**, she made her Marvel-Comics debut in an issue of:
A) GIANT-SIZE CHILLERS
B) MONSTERS UNLEASHED
C) WEREWOLF BY NIGHT
D) FURRY WOMEN SPECIAL EDITION

3. But all of the following heroes debuted in AVENGERS, except:
A) the **Black Knight**
B) the **Vision**
C) **Mockingbird**
D) **Wonder Man**

4. **Kehl**, **Gunthar**, and **Skuage** are:
A) lackeys of **Silver Sable** who battled **Hawkeye**
B) mercenaries with whom **Capt. Marvel** was forced to team in outer space
C) the real last names of the **Wrecking Crew**
D) Peter Gynch's law firm

5. Which villain is NOT a member of the minions of **Maelstrom** who have hassled our assemblers?
A) **Helio**
B) **Gronk**
C) **Screaming Mimi**
D) **Phobius**

6. Mockingbird let the **Phantom Rider** fall to his death from atop:
A) Eiffel Point
B) Ghost Canyon
C) Spirit Peak
D) Divorce Pass

7. **Jarvis's** first name is:
A) Jarvis
B) **Edwin**
C) **Edgar**
D) **Alfred**

8. Speaking of Avengers, **Steed** and **Emma** have been seen in the company of which friend of the Avengers?
A) **Professor X**
B) **Paladin**
C) **Ant-Man**
D) **Diana Rigg**

9. Wonder Man was roused to save the world from the machinations of **Emperor Doom** by the blind woman named:
A) **Alicia**
B) **Audrey**
C) **Ellen**
D) **Madame Web**

10. Which Avenger's personal rogues' gallery includes such figures as **Cajun Creed** and **Stained Glass Scarlet**?
A) **Captain Marvel**
B) **Moon Knight**
C) **Tigra**
D) **Thor**

11. **Hank's** shame led him to expulsion from the Avengers and separation from **Jan** came in a battle between the Avengers and:
A) **the Squadron Supreme**
B) **Attuma**
C) **Elfqueen**
D) **J. Jonah Jameson**

12. Which man's clone fled to Avengers Mansion for asylum against the killer called the **Taskmaster**?
A) **Dr. Hank Pym**
B) **Dr. Bill Foster**
C) **Dr. Pernell Solomon**
D) **Dr. Marcus Welby**

13. Which was never an alias for the African Avenger, the **Black Panther**?
A) **T'Challa**
B) the **Black Leopard**
C) **Willie Lincoln**
D) **Luke Charles**

14. One of Thor's most triumphant returns to the ranks came with his defeat of the foe:
A) **Tiger Shark**
B) the **Piranha**
C) **Orka**
D) **Sharqu**

15. Who officiated at the wedding of the Vision and the **Scarlet Witch**?
A) **Rev. Byron Hiatt**
B) **Espirita**
C) **Immortus**
D) **the Son of Satan**

16. Who fought alongside the Avengers against the schemes of **Cornelius Van Lunt**?
A) **Red Wolf**
B) **Red Raven**
C) **Red Ronin**
D) **Red Rover**

17. **Masters of Evil** chairman, **the Crimson Cowl**, was unmasked as:
A) **Ultron-5**
B) **Jactus**
C) both of the above
D) none of the above

18. The alien intelligence which controlled the **Ultroids** was discovered by the Avengers to be:
A) the **Supreme Intelligence**
B) **Ivar, the Invincible**
C) **General Zedtao of the Skrulls**
D) the little white bear in the commercials for **Snuggle** fabric softener

19. Wonder Man and Power Man both received their powers from the devices of:
A) **Zemo**
B) **Count Nefaria**
C) **Kang**
D) **Nautilus**

20. In the very first issue of AVENGERS, which hero masquerades as **Mechano**?
A) the **Hulk**
B) **Iron Man**
C) **Giant-Man**
D) the **Wasp**

X-TRA THE MUTANT REPORT X-TRA

INFERNO

VOLUME 3 "THE NEXT STEP IN NEWS EVOLUTION" NUMBER 11

Every year or so, the Marvel Madmen go out of their way to produce something special — a massive effort that involves a whole bunch of your favorite characters often in stories that change the face of the Marvel Universe forever! First, it was SECRET WARS, then SECRET WARS II. Last year it was FALL OF THE MUTANTS, and this past summer it was THE EVOLUTIONARY WAR. Why do we do this? Why do we put out the tremendous effort it takes to coordinate a mega-story across several magazines?

"We do it from sheer stupidity!" So says Louise Simonson, scripter of THE NEW MUTANTS and X-FACTOR.

"Originally, all *I* wanted to do was deal with Illyana — her confrontation with what I guess you could call her destiny. That was really all I had in mind, just a story about Illyana and what she can become."

"When I talked to Chris Claremont (writer of THE X-MEN), it turned out that he had some stuff in mind for THE X-MEN and X-FACTOR that sort of tied together with what I wanted to do, so we decided to do it in tandem."

"All I wanted to do," said Claremont, "was clear up the redhead problem. Our real mistake was telling editor Bob Harras about it — and telling him it was okay for other books to join in."

The result is INFERNO, Marvel's newest mega-saga.

INFERNO is the story of what can happen when tremendous power is allowed to rage uncontrolled. Illyana, the mistress of Limbo, has always used her mystic realm as a means of transportation for herself and her fellow New Mutants. She has also used it as a convenient way to dispose of various enemies. Unfortunately, Limbo is not some uninhabited and harmless realm. Limbo is the home of numberless demons, demons who, led by S'ym (Illyana's "majordomo") have been working for eons to break through to the "helpless" green fields of Earth.

Illyana's fear of turning into the "Darkchilde," a role that she has been told is her destiny, and her growing attachment to her New Mutant teammates, has led to her spending less and less time in Limbo. This "carelessness" has led to S'ym growing more powerful — and the barrier between Earth and Limbo growing weaker. Finally, it weakens to the point that the Demons are able to reach through, change things to become more to their liking.

Their contact point is New York City (where else?) and it quickly begins to reflect its new connection with Limbo. Buildings begin to — shift. Cars become — almost alive. Clothing attempts to — eat its wearers?! The Empire State Building, symbol of the city, begins to grow, becoming an evil mountain in the heart of New York.

With this as a background, four major story lines are interwoven.

In **THE NEW MUTANTS (issues 70-75)**: Illyana and the kids successfully free Lila Cheyney and Gosamyr's family, fighting Spyder in the process. As they attempt to use Limbo to return to Earth, they are attacked by hordes of Demon-Monsters!

Illyana realizes that only she, in her Darkchilde persona can stop them, but as she uses the Soulsword she begins her transforma-

tion into the evil she has always feared. For her, it is the ultimate decision: give in to her destiny—become the Darkchilde and dwell forever among the demons of Limbo, exiling herself from Earth, her brother, and the teammates she has come to think of as family or: find another way to seal the breach, a way that will allow her to remain on Earth, although bereft of her powers, and her ability to teleport between dimensions—forever.

In **X-FACTOR (issues 58-38)**: Scott and Jean make an all-out search for Scott's missing son. Unfortunately, N'astirh, one of the Demons of Limbo, is collecting "special" children for a very special purpose. The sacrifice of these kids will forever open the breach between Earth and Limbo, allowing the Demons control eternally. As they continue the search, battling their way through the now almost totally transformed New York, they meet the X-Men, fellow mutants they have long thought dead! The two groups track N'astirh to his lair. There, as the final confrontation takes place, the souls of the children (not to mention those of Scott, Maddie, and Jean) lie in the balance.

In **THE X-MEN (issues 239-242)**: the team has accepted Maddie Pryor as a member since their apotheosis in Texas. When she is drawn into New York by her connection with Mr Sinister and N'astirh, they follow, doing all they can for one they consider a friend and comrade. Finding themselves face to face with X-Factor, people several of them know as former comrades, they find themselves faced with a major dilemma. Whose side are they on? Do they fight to help Maddie, their teammate and friend? Or do they trust their own kind, other Mutants whom they have trusted in the past, but who have recently appeared to work against Mutantkind, hunting them down for a price

What they cannot realize is that their decision is a key one, the final barrier that will determine whether the Demons will win, and gain a new homeland, or lose, and be forced back into the nowhere of Limbo.

In **X-TERMINATORS (1-4)**: The newest Marvel Mutant Limited Series, Rusty, Boom-Boom, and the other X-Factor kids have an adventure of their own. They are faced with a variety of problems: a move to a boarding school, the Mutant Registration Act (Rusty is now of age), and the kidnaping by the Demons of several of the youngest X-Terminators Naturally, the kids don't take any of this sitting down! They immediately take on all comers, from the U.S Government to the most powerful of the Demons! As they fight, they come to realize that it takes more than mere powers to win battles. There is more to this than they thought! And when they finally achieve their victory, they realize that there is a lot more to this hero business than they had figured.

Naturally, we're not going to reveal more about the various storylines, but we will tell you one thing, things will change in the Marvel Mutant Universe—change forever.

One more thing that will change: the genesis of future Marvel cross-over projects. As both Louise and Walt Simonson have stated:

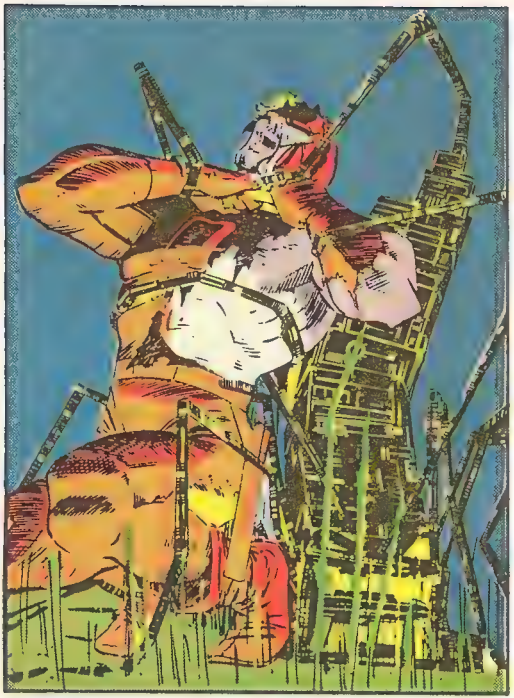
"After this, no more annuals, no more crossovers, no more special events. We told Bob Harris he better look elsewhere than the mutants if he wants to do this kind of project in 1989."

Or, as Chris Claremont put it: "Amen!"

INFERNO CROSS OVERS

Demons in the streets. Buildings coming alive, eating their inhabitants. Clothing slowly digesting its wearers. All of these are part of the "New" New York City of the INFERNO, Marvel's multi-issue, multi-magazine epic this fall. The bulk of the story line concerns the plight of Illyana Rasputin and her battle to regain control of Limbo and force the Demons back into that nether realm. But while she is doing this, and while the various X-Folk are fighting the major demons and trying to stop them from permanently opening the rift between Earth and Limbo, what are other Marvel heroes doing?

Well, those in the New York area, which has been sealed off by Demon forces, are doing the same things the mutants are doing: fighting for the survival of Earth.



In **THE AVENGERS** the majority of the team is trapped outside New York City, held out by the Demon force field. It falls to Captain America to battle alone until he is joined by Reed and Sue Richards, desperately looking for their son, Franklin, who has been captured by N'astirh's minions, Nanny and the Orphan Maker, as part of the grand design to open the breach to Limbo forever! As the battle becomes more and more heated, a new hero appears from nowhere to join the Avengers in defeating the Demon-monsters who would take over the world!

In **DAREDEVIL**, Demons start to appear in DD's little corner of the world, Hell's Kitchen, and Daredevil is forced to hit the streets to battle them. As the fight progresses, and the INFERNO effect becomes stronger and stronger, the very structure of the city becomes dangerous, trains come to life and become demons themselves, consuming travel-weary passengers. What is the Man Without Fear to do? He fights on, trying to save that one little part of the world he considers his.

In the **FANTASTIC FOUR**, the team has problems of their own. Sure, New York is turning to "oatmeal and monsters" outside their window, but they're battling Graviton, and they feel certain they must defeat him before they turn to the problems of the City of Demons. As they finally turn to the City, they discover a new problem in their own group, as the "changed" atmosphere causes the Human Torch some problems of his own, problems that will change the way he is regarded by those around him.

In **POWER PACK**, while their apartment goes crazy around them, the kids find themselves too sick to battle the forces taking over their city. And also too sick to prevent the return of the Bogeyman, who finally makes good on his threats, forcing the kids to make a decision they have been avoiding for months.

In **the SPIDER-MAN** titles, Spidey, too, is pulled into the INFERNO by its effect on his home base in New York. After all, it's tough enough to go wall-crawling when the wall *doesn't* try to eat you! In any case, the skewed reality of Limbo causes an old villain-turned-friend to lose control and again threaten the city—and those he loves. And while Spidey battles that threat, a still greater menace sufaces. The Hobgoblin is in this stricken city, and far from fighting the menace, he joins it, and is changed forever. Can he beat Spidey now, with the aid of his new and powerful friends?

Obviously, the INFERNO will create more problems than even the heroes of New York can solve. And while each is busy with problems of his or her own, the greater problem still grows and flourishes. If the much-maligned Mutants of the X-Men and X-Factor cannot stop N'astirh, there will be no respite, no relief. Not only will New York become a Hell on Earth, but the blight will spread, until there is no Earth left at all.

The saga of INFERNO was planned as a Marvel mega-epic. As such, it is spread over many issues of many different Marvel titles. Despite this, it is *not* necessary to read all the crossovers to understand what is going on, (although you'll want to read all of them to appreciate the story in its entirety). Each part was conceived separately, and each is complete within itself. For example, the Spider Man adventure in INFERNO all appears in Spidey's own comics likewise with the AVENGERS, FANTASTIC FOUR, etc. Still, to help you with this new epic, here's a checklist of INFERNO tie-ins (note that the major story line is listed seperately, see the accompanying article):

AVENGERS: #298-300
DAREDEVIL: #262-264
POWER PACK: #42-44
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: #311-313
SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN: #146-148
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN: #47-48
FANTASTIC FOUR: #322-324

The final capper, the last piece of the puzzle, will appear in CLOAK AND DAGGER #4, and will tie up whatever loose ends remain, and ensure that *all* the storylines reach conclusions.

The INFERNO will it temper super heroes, make them better, stronger, more powerful? Or will it destroy them, burning them up in one last holocaust of heroism. Only time, and careful reading, will tell.

Doug Murray

triple ANNIVERSARY

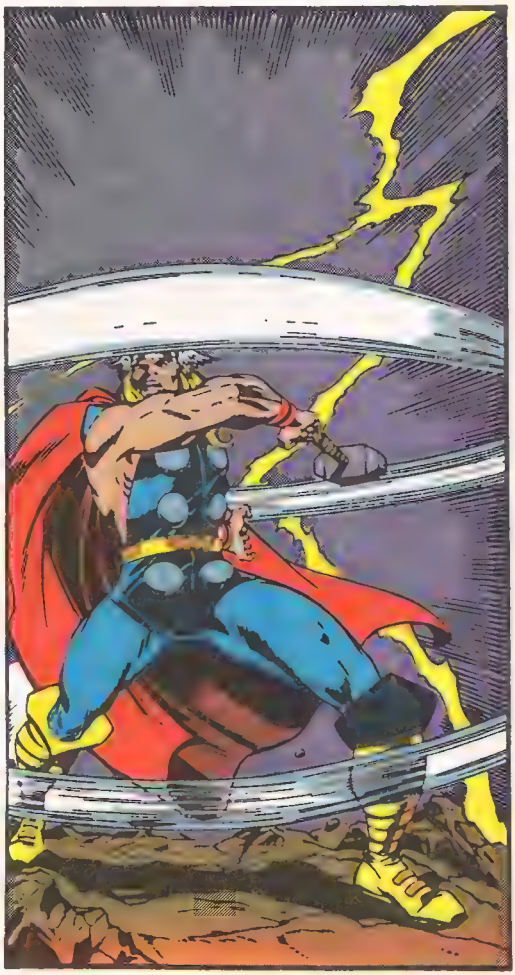
Three landmark anniversary issues of longtime Marvel series are about to go on sale: AVENGERS #350, and THOR #400. Each one will be a double-sized issue with one or more special features, as well as a lead story that brings each series' ongoing storyline to a climax and sets the book going in a brand new direction.

But the problem with previewing these special anniversary issues is that the events in those lead stories are intended to be such major surprises that the creative teams for each book do not want to say too much about them in advance. They will drop tantalizing hints, but say little more.

In THE AVENGERS, as everyone now knows, there has not actually been an **Avengers** team, all of the recent members having left for one reason or another. But AVENGERS writer **Walter Simonson** promises, "There will be a completely new team by the end of AVENGERS #300." Both AVENGERS #299 and #300 are tie-ins with the Inferno storyline that will then be going on in X-MEN, X-FACTOR, and various other series and that has been extensively covered in other MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE articles. The heroes who will become the new team of Avengers will come together in the course of their individual efforts to battle the demons from the Inferno storyline who have been kidnaping babies. In AVENGERS #300 those heroes join together to combat the demons.

But who are these heroes? Well, that we can't give away, but we can tell you that one of them is a character from the CAPTAIN AMERICA series, two others are longtime members of another famous Marvel super hero team, yet another is a member of one of the hidden races of the Marvel Universe, and the fifth is a character that no one should be surprised that Walter Simonson is using in THE AVENGERS!

By the way, 1988 also marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of THE AVENGERS, which debuted with an



issue cover-dated September, 1963 (the same month as X-MEN #1!).

The main story will be written by Walter and illustrated by **John Buscema** and **Tom Palmer**. Walter will draw a special feature that will be written by his predecessor as AVENGERS scripter, **Ralph Macchio**, and which recaps the origin of THE AVENGERS from an unusual perspective. Ralph says, "**Mark Gruenwald** [editor of THE AVENGERS] came to me one day, perplexed as he usually is, and said we have to do a short feature in AVENGERS #300 about the origin of the Avengers, and I want to do it from the viewpoint of one of the characters. So we went through the founding members one by one, and he said, "I can't figure out which one we should use." So I said, "Why don't we do it from **Loki**'s point of view because it's his fault? He's the one who got all of them together to chase down the **Hulk** to get **Thor** in a lot of trouble." And Mark said, "Great idea. You write it."

Mark himself is, of course, writing CAPTAIN AMERICA #350, which brings to a climax the storyline in which the original **Steve Rogers** was forced to give up the role of **Captain America**, which was then assigned to his rival, **John Walker**. Rogers himself took on a new costumed identity, calling himself **the Captain**. In #350 the Captain battles the new Captain America, and it will be revealed who gets to fill the role of Captain America from then onward. Mark says, "I hope the answer will be surprising."

Furthermore, the same story features a character whom Mark describes as the series' "latest and greatest villain." The main story is drawn by **Kieron Dwyer** and inked by **Al Milgrom**, the series' regular artists. **John Byrne** has drawn a special back-up feature, written by Mark and inked by **Bob Wiacek**, which recounts the life story of this major villain and contains many re-creations of scenes from classic Marvel stories of the past.

Other back-up features picture all of the women with whom the original Captain America has been involved and all of his past partners, from the original **Bucky** onwards.

THOR writer **Tom DeFalco** says that THOR #400 will feature the conclusion of the war between the gods of Asgard and the gods of ancient Egypt led by the malevolent **Seth**. Thor's father, **Odin**, monarch of Asgard, at long last returned in issue #398 and will lead the Asgardians against Seth's forces in #400. Asgard itself will have been demolished in #399. As for Thor himself, in #400 he battles the being who is perhaps the most powerful adversary of Asgard, **Surtur** the fire demon. Also, Tom adds, "**Hogun the Grim**, who has been fated to die when next he meets Seth, will have his final battle." This main story will be written by Tom, penciled by **Ron Frenz**, and inked by **Brett Breeding**.

Back-up features include a story about Thor's evil half-brother, Loki, written by **Randall Frenz** (Ron's brother) and illustrated by **Charles Vess**, who has depicted the Asgardians in the Graphic Novel THE RAVEN BANNER and in the WARRIORS THREE stories in MARVEL FANFARE. "When **Volstagg** was in Flower," a tale recounting the first meeting of two of the Warriors Three, **Fandral** and Volstagg, drawn by newcomer **Richard Yanizeski**; "When Titans Clasp" (You read that right: "clasp," not "clash") which shows us a test of strength between Thor and **Hercules**, drawn by another new artist, **Gary Hardin**; "The Heart of the Hero," which pictures various women, mortal and immortal, whose lives have greatly affected Thor's; and "Who Shall Be Worthy," drawn by **Ron Frenz**, which shows who has proved worthy to lift the enchanted hammer of Thor, who has tried and failed, and what the hammer's magic powers are.

But what happens to Asgard? Who are the new Avengers? And is John Walker or Steve Rogers going to be Captain America—and what happens to whichever one of them ends up not being Captain America? The answers will remain a mystery for now but are bound to astonish you when you read AVENGERS #300, CAPTAIN AMERICA #350, and THOR #400, three series that are still demonstrating their vitality after a quarter-century—in CAP's case—more nearly a half-century!

—Peter Sanderson

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Talk about excitement! Even as I write this opening sentence, our cast and crew are preparing to head for sunny Australia to begin filming Marvel's first super hero movie epic!

You guessed it—it's THE PUNISHER! And, in case you haven't heard it by now, it stars none other than **Dolph Lundgren**, with his hair now black, as the man with the skull on his chest! This has to be the best type-casting of the year. Can't you just see big, powerful, dangerous Dolph taking on most of the cold-blooded killers in town, and annihilating them one by one? When you glom that human dynamo in action, you'll believe it, too, Charlie!

But that's not all. The other starring role in THE PUNISHER is that of a police captain named **Berkowitz**, played by **Lou Gossett, Jr.**. And if there's a more charismatic character actor in the biz we've yet to see him.

Now dig this. The movie's producer is also one of the top talents in town. He was responsible for the screenplay of TAPS as well as KARATE KID and KARATE KID II! So say hello to **Robert Kamen**. You're sure to become his biggest fan once you've seen THE PUNISHER!

As you're probably aware, one of the thorniest problems in adapting any novel or any comic book hero for the screen is figuring out what to change and what to leave intact. Sometimes the movie version is so different from the original format that it's almost unrecognizable. Well, we can promise you this: the Punisher you'll be seeing on the screen is pretty much the same Punisher who's thrilled you in countless comic book yarns.

There's only one element we haven't completely worked out yet. You know the shirt he wears, with the big skull design on it? Well, some of the production staff thinks it'll look just a tad corny on the big screen. Others think we should leave it intact, just as it appears in the mags. As I write this (at the end of July), no decision has yet been made, although by the time you get to *read* this it'll all have been resolved. And the only way to find out *how* it was resolved will be to see THE PUNISHER at your local theater. (How's that for a bare-faced plug?!!)

Of course, seeing it at your *local* theater isn't all that important. It really doesn't even matter if you see it in some distant town, far away from your local theater. Just be sure you don't miss it!

By the way, that phrase, "See it at your local threater," which has to be one of the most overworked admonishments of all time, reminds me of another ridiculous phrase that's been popular for years. You've seen it a zillion times. Whenever you read a popular book which is about to be made into a movie, you'll almost inevitably find the line, "Soon to be a major motion picture."

Well, someday I wanna write a book which'll say on the cover, "Soon to be a minor motion picture"! I mean, where is it written that you always have to follow the pack, right?

But enough about movies for now. It's time to talk TV!

I imagine you've all seen *The Return of The Incredible Hulk*, the two-hour movie presented on NBC-TV last May 22nd. Dunno if you heard this or not, but it walked away with the highest rating in its time slot! In fact, it was one of the highest rated shows of the year! And you know what *that* means!

What? You say you *don't* know what that means? Well, not to worry, True Believer. That's what **Uncle Stan** is here for; to shed the lamp of enlightenment o'er the darkened galaxies o. doubt and confusion! Oops, sorry! For a minute there, I thought I was still writing THE SILVER SURFER!

Anyway, because of the fantastically high ratings captured by our jolly green giant, there's a good chance that you'll be seeing a few **Hulk** movies each year over NBC! So watch your local papers for the scheduled times. In fact, you don't even *have* to watch your *local* paper—oh no, we've been down that road already!

Another thing about the Hulk TV show—some Marvel Madmen thought that **The Mighty Thor's** guest-starring role was the greatest thing since graphic novels! Others, however, hated the fact that the Thor they saw on the tube was somewhat different from the comic book Thor. But, love him or hate him, because of the show's great rating, there's a chance that **Odin's** offspring will be spun off by NBC and given a show of his own! So stay tuned for further developments!

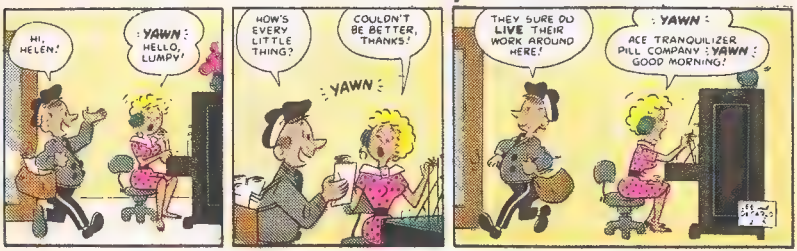
And now that I seem to have run out of things to huckster for the moment, I'll leave you with this sentimental but sobering thought: Comic books are like movies—sort of. The movie screen is much bigger than the comic book panel and you can hear the actors' voices. BUT—only in comic books can you find Stan's Soapbox! Which, they tell me, is why movies are better than ever!

Till next ish, then, be good to each other and, if you've got a few minutes to spare, why not take a turtle to tea?

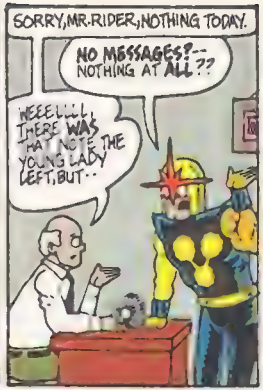
Excelsior!

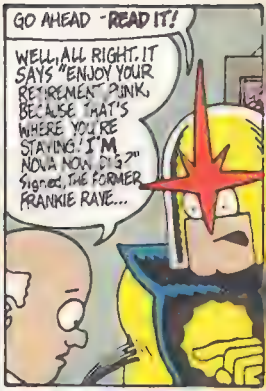
Stan Lee

WILLIE LUMPKIN © 1988 by Stan Lee and Dan DeCarlo


HI, HELEN!
: YAWN : HELLO, LUMPY!
HOW'S EVERY LITTLE THING?
COULDN'T BE BETTER, THANKS!
: YAWN :
THEY SURE DO LIVE THEIR WORK AROUND HERE!
: YAWN : ACE TRANQUILIZER PILL COMPANY : YAWN : GOOD MORNING!

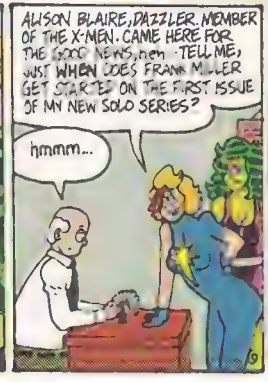
FRED HEMBECK

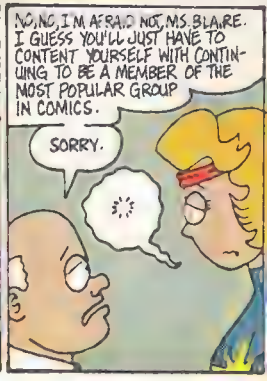



GO AHEAD - READ IT!
WELL, ALL RIGHT. IT SAYS "ENJOY YOUR RETIREMENT, PUNK, BECAUSE THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE STAYING! I'M NOVA NOW, BUB." Signed, THE FORMER FRANKIE RAYE...

NO MATTER. CONSIDERING THE sheer LACK OF RESPECT WE GOT... REALLY ENDURED... I'D SAY WE'VE DONE PRETTY WELL.
SURE HAVE! MEMBERS-- IN THE F.F., AVENGERS AND X-MEN-- NOT BAD AT ALL!

AH HAH! YOU'RE IN LUCK! YOU'VE GOT A NEW SERIES COMING OUT AND IT'S WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY JOHN BYRNE, NO LESS!!
..WOW..
GREAT. YOU'LL LET ME KNOW WHEN TIME MAGAZINE CALLS, WON'T YOU?


ALISON BLAIRE, DAZZLER. MEMBER OF THE X-MEN. CAME HERE FOR THE GOOD NEWS, then TELL ME, JUST WHEN DOES FRANK MILLER GET STARTED ON THE FIRST ISSUE OF MY NEW SOLO SERIES?
hmmm...


NO, NO, I'M AFRAID NOT, MS. BLAIRE. I GUESS YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO CONTENT YOURSELF WITH CONTINUING TO BE A MEMBER OF THE MOST POPULAR GROUP IN COMICS.
SORRY.

BLUE BLAZES!!..
DAZZLER?!?
SHE-HULK?!?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
YOU'RE NOT UNEMPLOYED--YOU'RE WITH THE X-MEN!?
...AND YOU'RE WITH THE AVENGERS (OR IS IT THE FANTASTIC FOUR), SO WHY ARE YOU?--
CAPTAIN MAR-VELL?? B-BUT YOU'RE DEAD!?!
I KNOW. THAT, BUT WHAT I DON'T KNOW IS, AM I STILL DEAD?..
WELL, LET ME CHECK... hmm, YUP YOU'RE STILL DEAD. AND CAPTAIN? DON'T CALL US, WE'LL CALL YOU, ALL RIGHT?
LADIES, STEP UP TO THE DESK PLEASE.
JENNIFER WALTERS, SHE-HULK. MEMBER OF THE AVENGERS. I WANT TO KNOW IF THEY'VE FINALLY WISED UP AND GIVEN ME MY SOLO BOOK BACK.
LET'S SEE.-- SHANG-CHI, SHANNA... ah, HERE WE ARE, SHE-HULK.
NEXT!!
AW, DON'T TAKE IT SO BAD, DAZ, YOU'RE DOING OKAY. YOU'RE GETTING REGULAR EXPOSURE, YOU'RE ASSOCIATING WITH IMPORTANT PEOPLE...
YEAH! THAT'S TRUE! AFTER ALL, I DO KNOW WOLVERINE!
JERICHO DRUMM, BROTHER VOODOO. I--
BROTHER VOODOO?
KNOW WOLVERINE? DAZ, HONEY, I'VE DATED WOLVERINE!!
ha ha ha

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS™

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, responding to the demands of the readers (nor to mention the demands of the creators who've worked hard to make the exciting new serial-format work), recognizes a phenomenon that's here to stay. That's why each month *Newsreel* will focus on the highlights of the latest developments in MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS.

Sometimes that will mean interviews with the writers, penciilers, editors, and even our heroes and villains! Other times the focus will tighten on "Close-Ups," a closer look at features that demand more detail than the single-framed format developed here. Each installment of *Newsreel* will also feature a "Rockumentry" where MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS Assistant Editor **Mike Rockwitz** examines one of the many upcoming "one-shots" that can star virtually any of Marvel's pantheon of heroes or villains.

Ready?

Roll 'em!

Peter Rasputin, better known to his fans as **Colossus** of the **X-Men**, is the perfect interview. He arrives at a Manhattan eatery right on time, and is soft-spoken and polite as he answers questions regarding his rather enviable position as the cover feature in MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS. (A position recently vacated by **Wolverine** who has gone on to star in his own continuing series.

NEWSREEL: Some people would say "It's about time!" Since your debut in GIANT-SIZED X-MEN #1, you're probably the only second-generation X-Man who hasn't had his own feature in one form or another.

PETER: That is true. **Storm**, **Wolverine**, **Night-Crawler**, **Shadowcat**. .They all each either starred or co-featured in a mini-series. I like to think it is because I was waiting for the right project to come alone.

NEWSREEL: You're obviously referring to your appearance in the eight-part story written by **Ann Nocenti** and penciled by **Rick Leonardi**. Can you tell us a little about it?

PETER. In fact, a little is all that I can say because I have not seen the finished script yet. (Laughter) What I do know is that I finally have to come to terms with some of the frustrations I feel as a foreigner living here in America. You must understand that in my country, in Russia, we do not have the same rights that are sometimes taken for granted—sometimes abused—by people of America. These insights and revelations come about as I travel through the midwest and discover an innocent family under siege and threat of elimination by superpowered operatives of their own government.

NEWSREEL: Are we seeing a political side to **Peter Rasputin**?

PETER: I would not say that. Yes, there are elements of the plot that deal with the suppression of the media in the United Srates and with the covert abuses of some government agencies that are entrusted to protect the people of your country. I do not think though, that just because the plot deals with a Russian defending an American family from their own government, that this is necessarily a "political story." I like to think of it as a story about people.

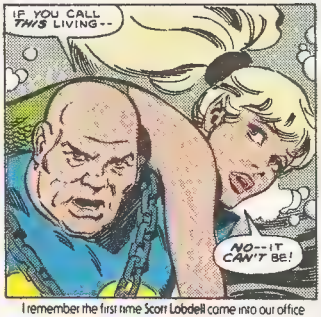
NEWSREEL. Anything else you'd like to add?

PETER: Just two words: Graphic Novel. (Laughter)

END

COLOSSUS

ROCKUMENTARY



I remember the first time **Scott Lobdell** came into our office. He was a young writer who was still wet behind the ears. I handed him a towel. Then I threw him out.

The next time he came in, he was still wet behind the ears. Only this time, he brought a puddle. I handed him a mop. Then I threw him out.

Finally he came in, sopping wet and covered with seaweed. I figured he was going to drown before he gave up his attempt to see Editor **Terry Kavanagh**, so I let him stay. All of this leads me to the 8-page story featured in Marvel Comics Presents # 12.

What I had confused for strange hygiene habits, was actually the result of research on a story starring **Namorita** of Atlantis. For those of you who don't remember Namorita, or "Nita" as she is known to her friends, first appeared in the Sub-Mariner #50 as the cousin of **Prince Namor, the Sub-Mariner**. She hung out with him for a while, even helping him to win a few undersea wars until it was decided she should live with **Betty Prentiss** in New York City. (If you were like three years old when these stories were originally published, don't worry about it. They'll be touched on during the Sub-Mariner Limited Series on sale now.)

That's where "Spring Break" opens. Nita has been living in the city for several years, attending Empire State University and she's homesick. When she gets home though, things aren't quite the way she remembers them. (Are they ever?) To make matters worse, she's greeted by a new group of super-villains known as **The School**. I would say they don't get along swimmingly, but they don't pay me enough to stoop that low for a pun.

I can't say much more without giving away the ending, so I'll just tell you to pick up a copy when it hits the stands. (Ignore the sand between the pages. It turns out **Frank Springer** drew the story while sitting on the beach and--)

It would be easy to say that the latest story of the **Black Panther** deals with an aspect of his past that has never even been discussed in the twenty years since his first appearance.

It would be easy to say that this multi-part saga within the pages of MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS features the return to Marvel of some of the greatest talents in the comics industry: **Don McGregor**, the writer, and **Gene Colan**, the penciler are reunited with **Tom Palmer**, the inker to collaborate in some of the finest work of their respective careers.

It would be easy to say that the story more than an exemplary action story, is also a mystery that follows T'Challa through the darkest regions of apartheid South Africa in search of the mother he never knew.

It would be easy to say all these things, but it would be unfair to say it in the limited space provided here. "Panthers Quest," the most ambitious storyline *yet* to run through the pages of the biweekly book, will be a twenty-five-part feature that will change the character as well as establish the fact that MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS is a forum where *major character developments can* and *do* occur.

Because of the magnitude of the story (which will run a total of *200* pages in all!), NEWSREEL will devote an entire upcoming installment to the title, Black Panther.

"Panther's Quest."
Don McGregor.
Gene Colan.
Tom Palmer.
MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #13.
Don't say we didn't warn you.

END

JOHN BYRNE interview

Anyone who enjoys Marvel Comics needs no introduction to the work of ***John Byrne,*** *who as writer, penciler, inker, or any combination thereof has produced such memorable work for over a decade on THE FANTASTIC FOUR, ALPHA FLIGHT, X-MEN, THE INCREDIBLE HULK, and many others. Over the last few years, though, he has not worked on any series set in the Marvel Universe, since he was busy revitalizing the flagship character of the Distinguished Competition. But he did not stay entirely away from Marvel for long. First he took over the role of writer and breakdown artist on THE STAR BRAND. Now, at last, he has returned to write and draw two Marvel Universe series as well. He is soon taking over the reins of THE*

WEST COAST AVENGERS, and shortly after that his new SHE-HULK series will appear, a comic that promises to be very different from any other Marvel comic you've seen.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE spoke to John to learn more about his new projects and his thoughts on returning to working with Marvel characters after all this time.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: How did you get to do THE WEST COAST AVENGERS?

JOHN: I'm taking over THE WEST COAST AVENGERS starting with issue #42. It mostly happened because **Howard Mackie** asked me to. As I understand it, an editorial decision had been made that changes needed to be made in the book. Howard figured he could kill two birds with one stone if he got me: get a writer and an artist. So he did that.

What finally convinced me to do it was learning that the **Vision** and the **Scarlet Witch** were part of the team, because the Scarlet Witch is a favorite character of mine. I fell in love with her when I was thirteen years old, when she first appeared in THE X-MEN. The Vision is one of my favorite characters. And having them to play with was one of the things that was most fun about doing the East Coast AVENGERS many years ago.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: Who'll be inking WEST COAST AVENGERS?

JOHN: As it stands right now, **Mike Machlan** will continue as the inker.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: Which other characters will be in the team?

JOHN: A couple of characters leave before I take over–**Moon Knight** and **Mantis**. So we're left with **Hawkeye**, Vision, Scarlet Witch, **Dr. Pym**, the **Wasp**, **Wonder Man**, **Tigra**...

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: **Mockingbird?**

JOHN: Mockingbird makes an appearance, but she's not a member of the team anymore. Then by the end of my third issue, #44, there'll be a new member who probably should be left nameless for the moment so as not to give away the Big Surprise. Then about two issues after that, there'll be another new member who will be an even bigger surprise.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: Neither of whom is **Iron Man.**

JOHN: Neither of whom is Iron Man. As it stands now, Iron Man will return with issue #51.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: What kind of storylines will you be doing?

JOHN: First of all, I'm doing all kinds of things with the Vision in the first three issues, #s 42, 43, and 44. So the whole relationship of the Vision with the rest of the group, and with the Scarlet Witch particularly, will be substantially altered. This will mean that some of the other interpersonal relationships will change.

We will discover, for example, that **Simon Williams,** [Wonder Man] has been politely standing to one side since the Witch was already married. But now that she's in a different condition–let's put it that way–he's going to reveal that of course the Vision fell in love with her, because he had Wonder Man's brain patterns. And, of course, Wonder Man has Wonder Man's brain patterns, too, so he's been nursing this crush on the Witch and hasn't been able to do anything about it. But now, because of certain of the changes, perhaps he can do something about it.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: Why are you making these changes in the Vision?

JOHN: Well, it all grows out of the story that **Roger Stern** did years ago [in AVENGERS] in which the Vision took over all the computers in the world, the "Dangerous Vision" cycle. I was not 100% satisfied with the way that story ended. I know Roger had to end it the way he did because of THE VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH Limited Series that was launching almost immediately at that point. Now that that's all out of the way, I've come up with a way to tap back into that particular cycle so I can add on the ending I thought it should have, and out of that ending grows the Big Revelation that we've been hinting at concerning the Vision. In fact, out of that comes the new member who comes in around issue #46.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: Is this an attempt to go "back to the basics" with the Vision?

JOHN: Not per se, no. He will be more like his old self, in the sense of cold and robotic. But it's a natural outgrowth of the story. I'm trying not to do a conscious "back to the basics" number on this. I'm tired of playing that particular game. One of the things that was appealing about THE WEST COAST AVENGERS was that there wasn't all that much that needed to be "fixed." So I was able to just take over and take off, instead of spending six issues putting things on track and restoring things, the way I've been hired to do so many times in the past.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: Will past plotlines like the one concerning the **Phantom Rider** be cleared up before you take over?

JOHN: Yeah, I was promised pretty much of a clean slate to start with.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: What else can you tell us about upcoming storylines?

JOHN: I want to expand their range considerably. I'm pretty much ignoring the words "West Coast" in the title. As far as I'm concerned, I'm doing the **Avengers.** I talked to **Walt Simonson,** since he's the current writer on the East Coast AVENGERS, and he agrees that we're both doing the same book, just with two different teams. So I have access to all the AVENGERS characters, all the AVENGERS villains, which works out to both of them, really, since

there aren't that many major AVENGERS villains.

The storylines will be much the same kind as I have traditionally done with Marvel books. They'll be cosmic every once in a while and down-to-Earth every once in a while and gritty every once in a while. I'm just basically doing super hero group stuff again, which I really haven't done for quite a long time.

For the first few issues I'm introducing new villains. I do have a brief appearance by good old **Ultron** in my first issue, but it's sort of a throwaway thing just to say, yes, this is the Avengers.

Most of the thrust of issue 50 will be the return of Iron Man, although there'll certainly be some other elements to it. I don't really know exactly what the storyline will be at this point, since it's six issues beyond what I'm working on now. I do know I want to play off some of the confusion since the world believes that it's a new guy in the Iron Man suit and that the old guy was killed. But of course the West Coast Avengers know that **Tony Stark** is Iron Man, so they're not going to be fooled. So we've got a couple of things we have to deal with now. Number one, Iron Man is supposedly a killer now, so they're going to have to deal with that. And then, of course, they're going to have to deal with this guy coming back to the West Coast Avengers without revealing that it's the same guy. Do they say, "Hi, Iron Man, welcome back," or do they have to re-induct him, as if he's somebody else? Part of the story will doubtless be their trying to find out if it is somebody else in there.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: You haven't done a series set in California before. Do you like drawing palm trees?

JOHN: [laughs] I haven't had to draw that many palm trees, luckily. The biggest difference is drawing the city, because Los Angeles is very different from New York. So I've been drawing a lot of flat buildings instead of a lot of tall buildings, because Los Angeles gets tall in the middle, but it's mostly flat around the edges. In fact, I haven't done the Los Angeles skyline yet. I'm mostly having them travel around the outskirts, so we're looking down on lots of flat buildings, with the occasional palm tree here or there.

But for the most part I'm going to have them trekkin' off all over the place, all over the world, just the way the East Coast Avengers and the **Fantastic Four** do. I want to take 'em into space, have them fight aliens. Everything the Avengers do, because they *are* the Avengers.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: What do you intend to do with the other team members?

JOHN: The Wasp I definitely want to have hanging around. I want to play off some of the tensions between her and [her ex-husband] Dr. Pym. I'll go so far as to say I never liked it when they broke up. So [laugh] we'll sort of be pushing them back together again.

Hawkeye, I think, may be taking a leave of absence in the immediate future. He's not going to be thrilled with the new member who's introduced at the end of #44. This is not definite yet. We'll see what happens when we get to the beginning of #45. He's also in a bad mood about a lot of stuff about Mockingbird, especially her involvement in the Vision storyline that takes up the first three issues.

Tigra is going to be changing quite a bit. I'm not going to say how [chuckles].

Wonder Man stays pretty much the same, except he'll be leaning towards the Scarlet Witch. I have a storyline that bounces off his movie stardom.

The Scarlet Witch is not going to be having a good time for about a year, I figure, with the stuff that's going to be happening with the Vision and some things that are going to be happening with her children.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: How is your new SHE-HULK series going to be different from the original one?

JOHN: The major difference is that the **She-Hulk** has a personality now. She really didn't before. That's not a criticism of the people who wrote her in the old days. It was simply that the character lay there for a long time and nobody knew what to do with her until Roger Stern started playing fast and loose with her in THE AVENGERS, and I picked up from that.

Another big difference is that it's going to be fun. My major emphasis in this series is that I want to have a good time with it. I want the readers to have a good time with it. So it won't be quite so grim and gritty. It's going to be a little crazier, a little wackier. Not quite WHAT TH*?! or FIGHTING AMERICAN [a classic **Simon** and **Kirby** satiric adventure series], but leaning in that direction. We're going to be using all the lame villains that **Scourge** hasn't killed, so we can do sillier kinds of villain plots. The She-Hulk will be reacting to all the stupidity that's going on around her, kind of rolling her eyes and going, "Why me, Lord?"

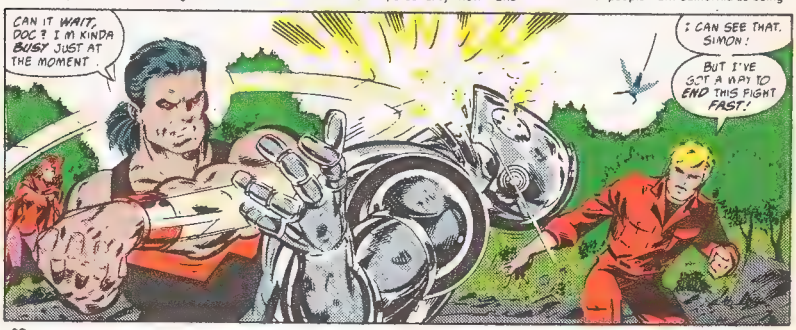
MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: Will she still be a member of the Avengers?

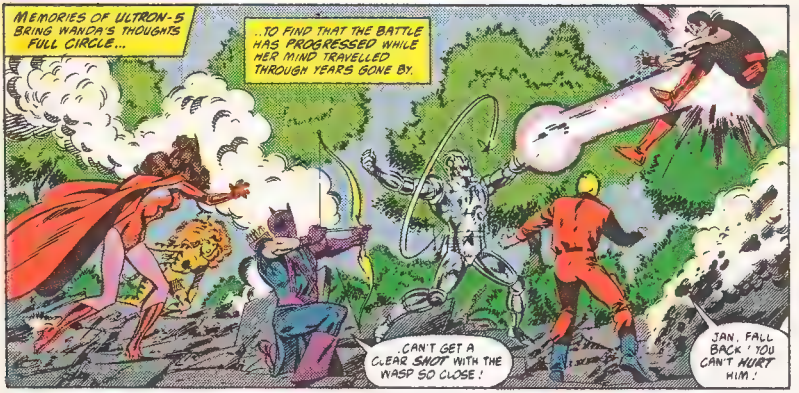
JOHN: She's a free agent as far as being a super hero is concerned. She's pretty much quit the Avengers as much as anyone *can* quit the Avengers. She'll eventually go back to the law. I'm thinking she'll probably be recruited by **Blake Tower** [Manhattan's district attorney] to become a prosecutor in New York. So it'll be She-Hulk for the Prosecution. I have to look up whether it's a conflict of interest if she goes out chasing bad guys and then prosecutes them as well.

I was thinking of moving her out to California, as you know, and putting her in the West Coast Avengers. But I decided the West Coast Avengers was getting way too crowded, and that I'd like to be able to draw New York in at least one of my books.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: She is from California, originally.

JOHN: I want to downplay that. I got the sense from the first SHE-HULK series that here's someone from California, so she must be a ditz, in the way people tend to think of people from California as being




MEMORIES OF ULTRON-5 BRING WANDA'S THOUGHTS FULL CIRCLE...
..TO FIND THAT THE BATTLE HAS PROGRESSED WHILE HER MIND TRAVELLED THROUGH YEARS GONE BY.
..CAN'T GET A CLEAR SHOT WITH THE WASP SO CLOSE!
JAN, FALL BACK! YOU CAN'T HURT HIM!

a little off the wall I don't think there's any reason to assume people from California are necessarily nuts. So I'm trying to avoid [portraying the She-Hulk as] the California Girl. This is a big, beautiful babe, but she's a big, beautiful babe internationally. She's not specific to California anyone.

There'll be different romantic interests drifting in and out. The SHE-HULK Graphic Novel in the works apparently takes care of **Wyatt [Wingfoot** as her boyfriend], so I'm starting with a clean slate there, too I can say that one of the romantic interests who will be coming in, probably during the first year, will be somebody who was hinted at while I was doing the FF.

The adventures are going to be pretty crazy. I hope

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE. Who are some of the villians going to be?

JOHN: We're starting off with the **Circus of Crime** in the first issue. Then we go to **Stilt-Man.** Then we go to revealing who was behind the Circus of Crime and Stilt-Man, which turns out to be the **Headmen.** They're up to no good. Beyond that, there's a bunch of different people [I might use]. I've been thinking about **Xemnu the Cosmic Teddy Bear.** I've been thinking about **Arnim Zola** and **Doughboy.** We've been talking about **Mahkizmo,** but we're not sure what state he's in at the moment.

They won't be all lame villains, of course. Once in a while we'll do a straight serious cosmic epic the way once in a while the regular Marvel books do something kind of off the wall

Since [the start of] SHE-HULK is actually farther away than THE WEST COAST AVENGERS at this time, I don't have much more than the first three issues really nailed down. I do know it will be as strange as I can make it.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE Who will be inking SHE-HULK?

JOHN: I don't know at this time.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: Might you do it yourself?

JOHN: No, I don't think I want to do any inking except for covers, but we'll see.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: You've said before you might have She-Hulk talk to the reader in her stories.

JOHN: She might. There's still that element. She talks to the reader on the cover of the first issue, so every once in a while she may break the fourth wall, but I don't think it will be as frequently recurring an element as I originally thought it was going to be I think I'm going to downplay it, just to see how it works, if every once in a while she makes a comment that makes us aware that she's aware that she's in a comic book. But it's not going to be quite so much like MOONLIGHTING or GARRY SHANDLING.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE When does SHE-HULK go on sale?

JOHN: I'm not sure. They're talking January or March. It'll depend largely on how soon I get four issues done, because **Tom [DeFalco]** wants four issues in the drawer before we schedule it, which I think is a great idea Pretty much the same thing is happening with WEST COAST AVENGERS. That's why there's a gap between **Steve Englehart's** last issue [#38] and my first one [#42] so I can get some issues in the drawer. Other writers are doing stories that tie up the dangling subplots [in between #s 38 and 42].

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE What is it that you enjoy about doing THE STARBRAND?

JOHN: It's just fun to have a universe that's so messed up and to have a power like the Starbrand that can be passed around and that we don't have heroes who are necessarily heroic They don't have to be traditional heroes They don't wear costumes. Certainly it's got nothing to do with the world outside our window any more. But it's interesting to be playing off something that's that screwed up The worst that **Galactus** ever did to Earth in the Marvel Universe is something that could be restored pretty quickly. In the New Universe, damage is permanent

I'm not sure how much longer I'll be on STARBRAND The initial surge of storylines that I came up with when Howard first asked me to do the book, I originally thought would take six issues Now it looks like I'm going to do nine So we'll see what happens beyond that

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: What are your thoughts on working on Marvel Universe books again?

JOHN: It feels good. It's a lot of fun. I did the first two issues of WEST COAST AVENGERS in about two weeks. It was a lot of fun doing those characters again, and just feeling the rhythms of a Marvel book, which are really different from the rhythms of a DC book. I hadn't really realized how much. A lot of people said when I started doing SUPERMAN that I was Marvelizing it, but it's very easy to see when I look at it now that I wasn't, because the whole approach, the whole context, the whole feeling of the characters is different. And it's a lot of fun. It was fun there in a different way.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: Can you explain how the rhythms are different?

JOHN: Not really. It's a gut reaction sort of thing. It's not something I can put into twenty-five words or less. It just feels different because the characters are different. Especially with people like the current crew in WEST COAST AVENGERS, who are very different from each other. Hawkeye is very different from the Vision, who is very different from Wonder Man, who's very different from the Scarlet Witch, and not just because of gender. They are very different characters, and, of course, they're very different from Superman, who's an icon, and has to be treated as an icon even when he's humanized. None of these guys [in WEST COAST AVENGERS] is an icon. They all have feet of clay. Some of them even have feet of silly putty.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: Do you have any other plans for work at Marvel?

JOHN: Not at this time. There are one or two things that have been on the back burner forever.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: Like THE LAST GALACTUS STORY [begun in EPIC ILLUSTRATED]?

JOHN: Well, there *is* THE LAST GALACTUS STORY, but I keep telling them, since I no longer do THE FANTASTIC FOUR, Galactus is not "my" character, so I don't feel I have any business completing THE LAST GALACTUS STORY. It's still there. Every time I see **Archie Goodwin**, he asks me to do it. [Pause] I do know what the ending is. [Laughs] But whether it'll ever see print, I do not know.

–Peter Sanderson

SOLARMAN

THE HERO WHO COULD BE YOU

TM

It's a classic story. Evil being seeks to destroy Earth. Well meaning but helpless opponent seeks to thwart him by giving great power to an Earthling--a man who will defend his world at all cost. It's the stuff of which legends are made--and **Solarman**, Marvel's newest superstar, is destined to be a comic book legend, make no mistake about it! Writer **Stan Lee**, penciler **Jim Mooney**, and inker **Dennis Janke**, put a new spin on this classic theme, making a very special book and a very special character--the hero who could be you!

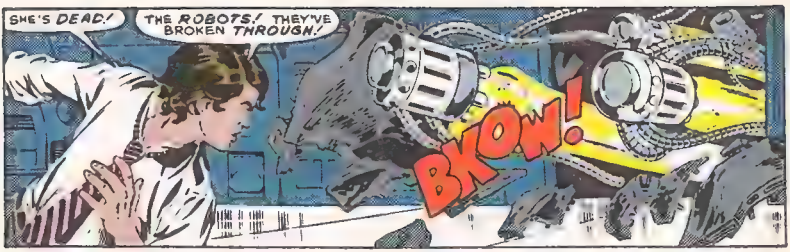
What do we mean by that? Well, read on! The insane **Warlord Gormagga Kraal** wants to destroy the sun. His "solar ray" absorbs the energy and stores it in power pods. Kraal believes that when all the pods are full, he will have the power to achieve his ultimate goal--mastery of the universe.

But Kraal is not unopposed. The scientist, **Sha-Han**, who invented the solar ray, challenges the Warlord, but is powerless to stop him, or so Kraal thinks. In a desparate, last-ditch effort to thwart Kraal, Sha-Han escapes from Kraal's ship and heads toward Earth. He takes with him a weapon of great power--the Circlet of Power.

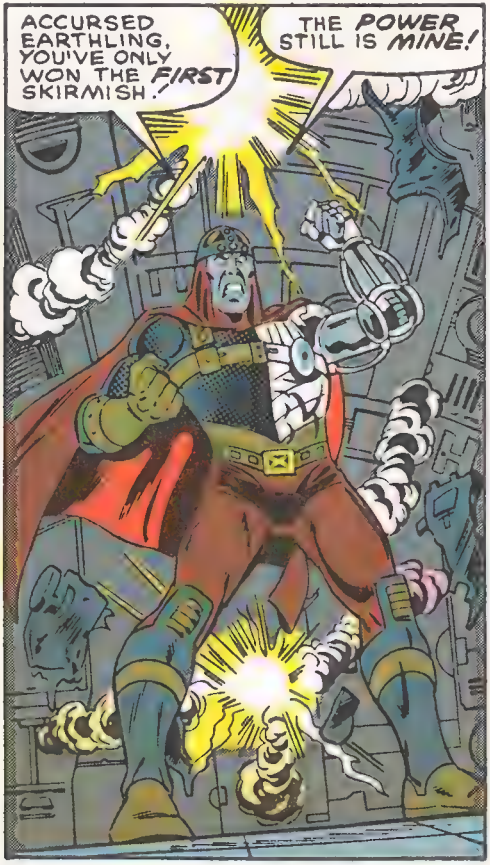
On Earth, Sha-Han encounters **Ben Tucker**, a compassionate young man whose fondest wish is to draw for Marvel Comics, and gives him the Circlet. When exposed to the sun, Sha-Han explains, the Circlet will transform him into Solarman.

This is all pretty heady stuff for a comic book fan like Ben. And it gets even weirder when Kraal's minions come to Earth, seeking the Circlet.

SOLARMAN TM and 1988 by David Oliphant



Ben is soon forced to put the Circlet to the test exposing it to sunlight and becoming Solarman!



Solarman, created by **David Oliphant**, was originally designed to be an animated television show. Stan Lee caught a glimpse of the proposal and instantly knew that it had to be a Marvel Comic as well. While the show has yet to appear, Marvel decided that the character and story were strong enough to support a book on their own. And of course, Stan Lee, the man who brought SOLARMAN to Marvel, insisted on writing the adaptation of the pilot teleplay. Stan, as everyone knows, is one of the heads of Marvel Productions, Marvel's West Coast animation studio, and serves as Marvel Comics publisher as well. He created just about every Marvel character that debuted in the 60's and has been an integral part of Marvel since the 1940's. Nowadays, because of his hectic schedule, Stan is only available to script an occasional comic and such comic books are always very special. And SOLARMAN is that! SOLARMAN is a one-shot 30-page comic with no ads. The cover is by **Mike Zeck** and will soon be available as a Marvel Press poster. If demand is great enough (and we believe it will be), SOLARMAN will be inducted into the regular pantheon of Marvel titles.

If you've ever dreamed of being a super hero and assumed it could never happen, latch onto a copy of SOLARMAN and discover how sometimes dreams can come true.

Sandy Hausler, J.D.

THE MARVEL AGE 1978 PART I

As the folks of Firesign Theatre used to say, it's time to go Forward Into the Past! Let's examine what Marvels founding solo stars were up to in the late, great year of '78!

Everyone's favorite web-slinger was kept out of the pool halls by the return of the **Green Goblin**! Ol' **Gobby** was collaborating with **Silvermane**, in his traditional attempt to take over the New York mobs. **Harry Osborn** was the likely suspect — until Harry donned a Goblin outfit himself to battle the new Goblin, who was ultimately revealed as Harry's shrink, **Bart Hamilton**! Once he was defeated, writer **Marv Wolfman** assumed scripting chores on THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, introducing such nemeses as the **Rocket Racer**, **Big Wheel**, and the **White Dragon** — and new friends such as **Philip Chang**. Changes came fast and furious to Pete's life as he graduated from college, was cleared of suspicion in the death of **George Stacy**, and finally hailed as a public hero! A team-up with **Captain America** wrapped up the year, while a representation of Spidey's battle with the incredible **Hulk** filled that year's Annual.

Over in PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN, a multi-part saga pitting our hero against the cultists of the **Hate-Monger** reached its ferocious climax! Spidey teamed with **Razorback**, the CB hero (remember CB radio?) to finish off the cult and free **Sha Shan** from their influence. After a skirmish with the **Beetle**, Spider-Man and the **Angel** joined to defeat a brainwashed **Iceman**, in an exciting coda to the saga of the **Champions**. Further troubles for Web-head were created by the **Enforcers**, now led by **Lightmaster**: the **Scorpion**; and most unforgettable of all, the **Hypno-Hustler**! (Remember the Hustle?) **Moon Knight** swung in to help against **Cyclone**; would 'twere he had stuck around to assist against the **Masked Marauder** and the terrible **Tri-Man**!

As the **Falcon** took over the training of S.H.I.E.L.D.'s super-agents, CAPTAIN AMERICA had his book all to himself again, pursuing the "search for **Steve Rogers**." His quest for his identity led him up against the giant **Ameridroid**, and the monumental menace of **Animus**! (You had to call it monumental — she brought the Lincoln Memorial to life to battle Cap!) After handily besting the **Tarantula**, **Senor Suerte**, and the sinister Corporation, S.H.I.E.L.D. devices restored Steve's missing childhood memories to him. But the cathartic shock of it all neutralized the super-soldier formula, leaving him a 98-pound weakling! The return of the **Red Skull** served to reactivate Cap's powers, and just in time for a bout with the deadly **Constrictor**!

What about Cap's old TALES OF SUSPENSE partner, **Iron Man**? A multi-part saga studded with guest-stars continued as 1978 began, and **Tony Stark** struggled to regain his holdings from the insidious **Midas**! Helping him were **Jack of Hearts**, the **Guardsman**, **Madame Masque**, the **Wraith**, **Jean DeWolff**, **Jasper Sitwell**, and **Eddie March**! Most of them ended up turned into gold for their efforts, until **Yellowjacket's** biological genius returned them to health. The battle won, Shell-head took on Jack of Hearts as an apprentice, and headed for the Moon to beat back a force of renegade **Colonizers**! He had a little help from his friends, here as well — after a clash with the **Soviet Super-Soldiers**, the **Recorder** and the **Knights of Wundagore** were all on

hand for the climactic triumph! The **Unicorn Arsenal**, and the **Ani-Men** all made the scene as scripter **Bill Mantlo** concluded his accomplished tenure on IRON MAN — to be followed by the team considered by many as the best ever to work on the book: the **Michelinie Romita Jr. Layton** combination! They saw to the death of **Count Nefaria**, the subsequent revillainization of Madame Masque, and the long-awaited return of the **Spymaster** — and that was just for starters!

Artist **Walt Simonson** warmed up for his historic run on THOR in '78, as he and scripter **Len Wein** returned the **Thunder God** to Earth to duel **Damocles**, the **Stiltman**, **Blastaar**, and (with help from Iron Man) the fearsome automaton known as **F.A.U.S.T.**!

Then **Roy Thomas** began an epic storyline to tie **Thor** closer to his Norse sources. The signs of Ragnarok seemed to be appearing! **Balder** dead? The **Midgard Serpent** stirring? Thor's old reporter friend, **Harrison Hobbs**, was there to record it all — until his cameraman became the new, red-headed, bearded, Thor the Mighty! This "Thor" kidnaped **Sif**, but ultimately fell to the forces of **Hela** — all part of **Odin's** plot to stave off the end of the world for a day long distant. Balder would survive his sojourn in the land of the dead, but Odin would pay a price — one of his eyes. The THOR ANNUAL introduced the **Inca Thunder God**, and tied the **Eternals** to Thor's cast, setting in motion the amazing events of the next two years!

Cap'n Barracuda and **Stingray** created problems in '78 for THE INCREDIBLE HULK — but when new scripter **Roger Stern** returned the **Leader** to the Hulk's life, things went from bad to worse! **Bruce Banner's** apparent cure was undone to defeat the maniacal mastermind, sad to say. **Doc Samson** tried to take advantage of the opportunity to psychoanalyze the Hulk, and came to some startling discoveries — but his progress was undone by the manipulative **Moonstone**! In her daring debut, she not only alienated the Hulk from his friends, but drove **General Thunderbolt Ross** into a nervous breakdown! An encounter with the **Harvester from Beyond** concluded the Hulk's year, while the HULK ANNUAL united Angel and the Iceman with ol' Green-skin, against the malevolent **Master Mold**.

But wait! There's more Hulk on the horizon! Due to the success of his CBS TV show, the black-and-white magazine, THE RAMPAGING HULK, went to full color by the end of the year . . . calling itself simply THE HULK! With the end of the black-and-white issues, the Hulk's 1963 flashback adventures concluded, as did back-ups featuring **Man-Thing**, the death of **Bloodstone**, and a sizzling **Shanna the She-Devil**. The color adventures were akin to the TV show, full of action but in real-life situations — and featuring the mysterious **Moon Knight** in an acclaimed series of back-up tales!

As Moon Knight found fame, another mercenary debuted over in DAREDEVIL: the redoubtable **Paladin**! Writer **Jim Shooter** wove some of DD's most daring adventures yet, as **Heather Glenn** discovered **Matt Murdock's** secret identity, and the **Purple Man** lived up to his full potential as a villain! Shooter was followed on the book by **Roger McKenzie** (with perennial DD artist **Gene Colan**), who set the Man Without Fear against the **Cobra**, **Mr. Hyde**, the **Jester**, the **Gladiator**, the Purple Man, and the **Death-Stalker** — all in the course of three issues!

All of these super-heroic legends saw double duty, though, over in the pages of Marvel's magazine of alternate realities, WHAT IF? We learned what would have happened if someone ELSE had been bitten by a radioactive spider: specifically **J. Jonah Jameson**, **Flash Thompson**, and **Betty Brant**! (In a hysterical backup tale in the next issue, we saw the fate of a spider bitten by a radioactive human!) And say, what if Daredevil was cured of his blindness? He became the DA that **Foggy Nelson** was in our world! What if the **Avengers** had fought in the 1950's? They would have been the amazing team of **Venus**, **Marvel Boy**, the **Human**

Robot, the **3-D Man**, and **Gorilla-Man**! What if **Jane Foster** had found Thor's hammer? (I can't bring myself to tell you.) What if the original Marvel Bullpen had been the **Fantastic Four**? **Stan Lee**, **Jack Kirby**, **Sol Brodsky**, and **Flo Steinberg** became super heroes! And wrapping up the year, **Rick Jones** became the Hulk, a super-powered exile from our world who would find heroism and hope in the Negative Zone!

Next month we'll look at 1978's odder heroes, including **Ghost Rider**, **Dracula**, the **Human Fly**, and **Howard the Duck**! Till then, effendi!

—Brian Nelson

MARVEL COMICS PRICE GUIDE

Let's say fire, flood, or natural cataclysm wipes out your collection; or worse yet, you were just born too late! Here's what it would cost to restock the items listed in this month's MARVEL AGE installment. As ever, our source is **Robert Overstreet's** THE COMIC BOOK PRICE GUIDE #18. But remember: this is only a guide. Actual prices may vary, and should be less for copies in fair or poor condition.

	CONDITION Good	Fine	Mint
■ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN**			
176–181	.25	.75	1.50
186, 187	.35	.55	1.10
ANNUAL 12	.35	1.00	2.00
■ **CAPTAIN AMERICA**			
217–228		.40	.80
■ **DAREDEVIL**			
150–151 (150: intro **Paladin**)		.60	1.20
152–155		.50	1.00
■ **THE HULK! (magazine)**			
10–12 (11, 12: **Moon Knight**)		.60	1.20
■ **INCREDIBLE HULK**			
219–230		.60	1.20
ANNUAL 7 (**Byrne Layton, Angel Iceman**)	.50	1.50	3.00
■ **IRON MAN**			
105–117	.25	.80	1.60
■ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN**			
14–20	.45	1.35	2.70
21–24, 25	.35	1.15	2.30
22, 23 (**Moon Knight**)	.45	1.40	2.80
■ **RAMPAGING HULK (b/w magazine)**			
7–9		.50	1.00
■ **THOR**			
267–278, **ANNUAL** 7		.40	.80
■ **WHAT IF**			
7–10	.45	1.25	2.50
11–12	.35	1.10	2.20

DON'T READ THIS YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE IT'S BEEN

Send your letters to: MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, c/o Marvel Entertainment Group, 387 Park Ave. South, New York, N.Y. 10016

This month's letter column title is a piece of nonsensical advice from Robert Brown of Sumter, SC. Thanks for the tip, Robert! You'll probably be happy to know that we've even brushed our teeth and washed behind our ears, too!

Incidentally, the rest of you may be happy to know that we still need a nifty new title for this letter column each and every month. So get those cerebral hemispheres in gear and send in those ideas! If we use your idea, we'll even print your name in this space as our way of saying "thanks!" After all, one good turn deserves another.

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

I am starting a Paranormal Club (not a Paranormal Fan Club.) It will include a newsletter about our favorite paranormals, **D.P. 7**, **Psi-Force**, **Justice**, and (even though the wielder of the **Star Brand** is not a paranormal) the Star Brand. If you want to join, send your name, address, and paranormality to:

Paranormal Club
57 Washington St.
Ayer, Mass. 01432

I am not joking about this club, so please write.

James Gray

Good luck with the club, James. Considering all the problems paranormals have been having lately, they may need a club to turn to before long!

Oh, and by the way, James, you have registered for the Draft lately, haven't you? Remember, if you're a paranormal, it's the law!

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

I am a fan of many characters in the Marvel Universe, but I would like to know what your plans are for **Eros** (**Starfox**) and **Firelord**. The reason I ask you this is because I have recently collected back issues of WARLOCK and CAPTAIN MARVEL. I'm not really into space heroes but I do like a variety of adventures and since you brought back the **Silver Surfer**, it made me wonder if there are any plans for a limited series or future appearances for Starfox and Firelord.

Wilson Jackson
2261 Stamey Livestock Rd.
Sumter, SC 29150

Your wish is our command, Wilson! We hope you caught Starfox's recent solo story in SOLO AVENGERS #15. And if you've checked out the Coming Attractions section of this very issue of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, you

already know that Firelord is coming back to guest-star alongside another one of Galactus's old heralds, the Silver Surfer!

And before anybody yields to the temptation to make a horrible pun, no, this doesn't mean we've become a bunch of space cases!

Oh, and speaking of horrible puns. . .

Gentlemen:

Please bear with me a moment as I play with some math problems. Given any real number x, what are its factors? Well, since any real number multiplied by one is still that number, then we know that its factors are 1 and x. Now, given a person who always wears denim, what happens if that person writes "one" on something and puts it in their pants pocket? Well, since 1 is a factor of x3 and the person wears denim, we can say that the person becomes a mutant. Why? Because they have an x-factor in their jeans!

Just thought you might like that little genejoke.

Incidentally, the above results make the team X-Factor #1!

Until the **Punisher** perishes, **Daredevil** dies, and the **Captain** croaks, Make Mine Marvel!

Chris Gidman

Hey, Chris, what happened when the Plantman got hold of the cosmic cube? He made a square root!

Ha ha ha ha ha! Oh, no! It's contagious! Someone stop us before we pun again!

Who says mathematics is no fun, huh?

Dear Marvel,

I think I've finally solved the mystery of **Scourge**. I was reading an old issue of SPIDER-WOMAN and I think that Scourge is the original **Spider-Woman's** foe, the **Hangman**!!!

Point 1: When Scourge was talking to **Captain America**, he said his father was a movie director and from these movies, he learned about real justice. According to the THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE, Hangman idolized movie actors and learned about good, evil, and the law from them.

Point 2: Both the Hangman and Scourge killed criminals but did not consider themselves criminals.

Point 3: Both of them used the line "Justice is served" after killing a criminal.

Now, I know that the Hangman was supposedly killed before Scourge came around, but he may have looked dead but really wasn't. Stranger things have happened.

Possibly the Strangest
Person in the World
Arlington, TX

Hmm. . . Some pretty interesting detective work there, "Possibly." Of course, we're not at liberty to tell you whether or not your conclusions are on target. (And besides, CAPTAIN AMERICA scripter Mark Gruenwald won't even tell us who Scourge really is!) But we hope you caught Scourge's recent appearance in CAPTAIN AMERICA. After all, you, can never tell when the final, vital clue to the villain-killer's identity is going to appear (although we will tell you this much: it probably won't be in CARE BEARS)!

Y'know, years ago, the Pepsodent toothpaste slogan started off "You'll wonder where the yellow went. . ." And now, after years of meditation and deep deliberation, we've found the answer — the yellow's right here! And you know what that means! It's time for this issue's LETTER OF THE MONTH!

Every month, we dig deep into the ol' mailbag to come up with a letter (or occasionally, even two letters) that we think will be of particular interest to Marveldom at large. Then we print it here against a (all together now) snappy yellow background!

This issue's Letter of the Month asks some questions that we think a lot of folks out there might like to see answered in print. (Ah, that piqued your curiosity, didn't it?)

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

I have always wanted to ask Marvel Comics about Marvel Comics. These are questions which I'm sure most Marvel-lovers out there wonder about every once in a while:

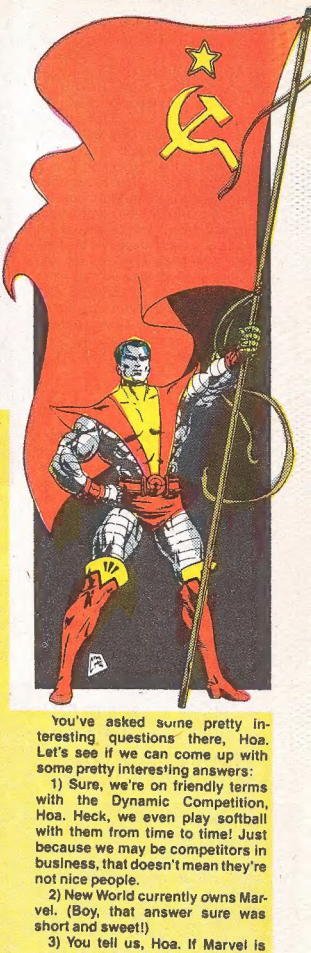
1) What kind of relation do you have with DC, your number one contender? Do you think of them as enemies or friendly competitors?

2) Do you own New World Pictures or do they own you?

3) I'm sure Marvel is careful not to saturate the market with new comics, Limited Series, graphic novels, etc. Do you think this might be a time when you guys have been going a little overboard, maybe?

Thanks in advance for answering these questions.

Hoa Vu
4819 Blondo St.
Omaha, NE 68104



You've asked some pretty interesting questions there, Hoa. Let's see if we can come up with some pretty interesting answers:

1) Sure, we're on friendly terms with the Dynamic Competition, Hoa. Heck, we even play softball with them from time to time! Just because we may be competitors in business, that doesn't mean they're not nice people.

2) New World currently owns Marvel. (Boy, that answer sure was short and sweet!)

3) You tell us, Hoa. If Marvel is saturating the market, then our sales will plummet. If sales ever drop below a certain point on a title, that title gets canceled. On the contrary, titles such as WOLVERINE, EXCALIBUR, and MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS are now the best-selling comics of 'em all. We must be doing something right, right?

Dear Editor,

One Sunday, I was rummaging through my closet and came across my box of old comics. Among the

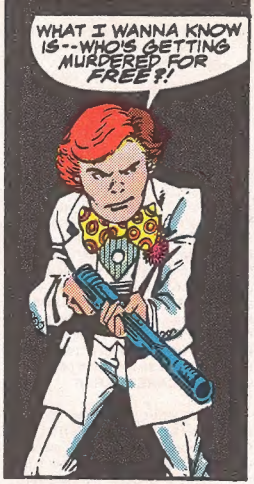
various Marvel titles in the box were two magazines: one was called BIZARRE ADVENTURES and the other was EPIC ILLUSTRATED. In both mags were stories drawn by **John Bolton**. His artwork is fantastic! Is he still at Marvel and will we be seeing more of his work?

In EPIC ILLUSTRATED, **Chris Claremont** had written two stories about **Marada the She-Wolf**. Does he have any more? Maybe he could put together a book of short stories about Marada or a whole novel—if the fans of THE X-MEN would give him time to think of stories about characters other than the **X-Men**. BIZARRE ADVENTURES contained a story about **King Kull** written by **Doug Moench** with artwork by **John Bolton**. Does Doug have any more stories about King Kull?

D.L.
Honolulu, Hawaii

We agree with your assessment of Mr. Bolton's artistic skill one hundred percent, D.L. Let us know what you think of his latest tour de force written by Ann Nocenti, the SOMEPLACE STRANGE Graphic Novel. Also, don't forget to check out CLASSIC X-MEN! Each issue contains an all-new back-up tale illustrated by the illustrious John.

As for Marada, not too long ago Epic collected a bunch of the Marada short stories and released them in the MARADA THE SHE-WOLF Graphic Novel. There is still one of



her stories left to be re-released, and the friendly folks over at Epic are working on a way to include that in a new Marada Graphic Novel.

As far as new King Kull stories go, check out the back-up features in the black and white SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN magazine. They may not be by Doug, but they're still written by some mighty fine talent.

As soon as we get more news on these, or any other projects that John and Doug are doing, we'll be sure to bring you all the details right here in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE. So stay tuned (or as Roger Rabbit might put it, "stay Tooned")!

Uh oh! The puns are resurfacing again! Maybe we'd better just play it safe, write "finis" to another letter column, and get out of here before the tomatoes start flying.

But before we go, let's take a minute to introduce another batch of MARVEL CORRESPONDENTS (we bet you thought we forgot all about them, didn't you?) All set? Then let's meet some more guys and gals from across the globe who are looking for new friends with whom to swap epistles! (Hey, who says reading comics doesn't increase your vocabulary?) Why not pick one or two and drop 'em a line! We bet they're pretty swell people and well worth the risk of writer's cramp!

Oh, and don't forget: If you'd like to be listed in this space yourself, simply send your name, address, age, and the titles of your three favorite Marvel Comics to Marvel Correspondents at the address atop this column. You might just wind up with the most exciting mail this side of winning the Publisher's Clearing House sweepstakes!

And now, without any further ado, here are this month's Marvel Correspondents:

MARVEL® CORRESPONDENTS

Jason Oldham
P.O. Box 305
Harrah, OK 73045
Age: 15
Favorites: THOR, THE NEW MUTANTS, X-MEN

Anthony Calderon
242 Ogden Ave.
Jersey City, NJ 07307
Age: 9
Favorites: SPIDER-MAN, G.I. JOE, THE TRANSFORMERS

Steven C. Perez
105 E. Laurel
McAllen, TX 78501
Age: 15
Favorites: CAPTAIN AMERICA, THE AVENGERS, WEST COAST AVENGERS

Bill Trokey Jr.
9512 Marbob Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63123
Age: 15
Favorites: X-MEN, THE NEW MUTANTS, POWER PACK

Trey Cooper
604 E. 17th St.
Portales, NM 88130
Age: 14
Favorites: X-MEN, EXCALIBUR, CLASSIC X-MEN

Chris Amelung
309 Danworth Ct.
Kirkwood, MO 63122
Age: 16
Favorites: X-MEN, THE NEW MUTANTS, X-FACTOR

Ron Harrison
1895 Donner Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94124
Age: 19
Favorites: X-MEN, X-FACTOR, THE NEW MUTANTS

David Barnes
73 Grand Blvd.
Sault Ste. Marie
Ontario, P6B 4J1
CANADA
Age: 18
Favorites: X-MEN, DAREDEVIL, PUNISHER

David Roberts
Rt. 3, Box 359
Blountville, TN 37617
Age: 15
Favorites: X-FACTOR, X-MEN, THE AVENGERS

Stuart Rumbel
4/140 Ruthven St.
Toowoomba, 4350
Queensland, AUSTRALIA
Age: 19
Favorites: THE PUNISHER, ALIEN LEGION, CONAN

ANSWERS TO MARVEL® TRIVIA QUIZ

1. C	5. C	9. C	13. C	17. C
2. A	6. C	10. B	14. C	18. B
3. C	7. B	11. C	15. C	19. A
4. B	8. C	12. C	16. A	20. A

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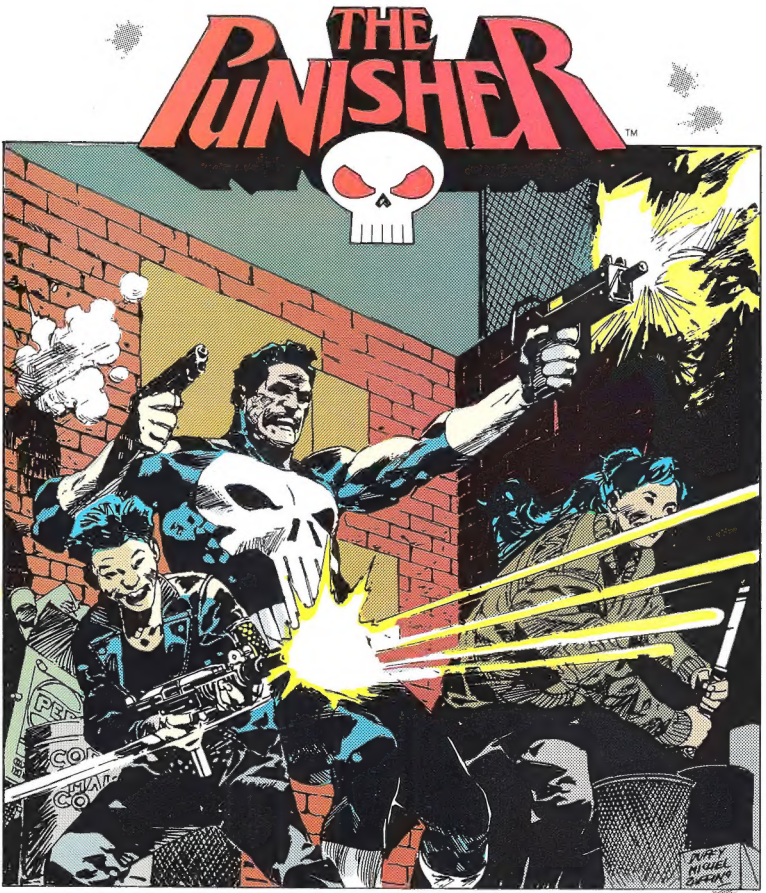
A MAN WHOSE FAMILY WAS KILLED. A FAMILY OF KILLERS. THEIR DIFFERENCES ARE PAINFULLY SIMILAR.



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ASSASSIN'S GUILD

A Graphic Novel By
JO DUFFY, JORGE ZAFFINO & JULIE MICHEL
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